

Thursday July 4 1996

Albania D 0.20	Hong Kong HK 2.5	Oman OR 1.20
Andorra AT 10	Hungary H 200	Pakistan PK 10
Austria AU 13.76	Iceland IK 185	Poland P 2.50
Bahrain BH 0.25	India IN 85	Portugal P 200
Belgium BF 36	Iran IR 9.80	Romania RO 2.00
Bulgaria B 2.40	Italy I 1.600	Saudi Arabia R 10
Canada CN 12.50	Japan J 125	Slovakia SK 55
Cyprus CE 1.00	South Korea S 150	Slovenia SL 250
Czech Republic KC 45	Kuwait K 0.50	Soviet Union S 165
Denmark D 8.50	Latvia LV 2	Spain S 165
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The Guardian

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The human cost of the Manchester bomb

Shattered lives

G2 with European weather



Derek Malcolm on Mission: Impossible

Cruising for a bruising

Screen, G2 pages 8/9

OnLine

Television caught in the Web

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Howard's £2bn jail cover-up

Secret costings block Learmont proposals to improve security

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE Government is to shelve key parts of a package to bring Britain's jails up to recommended minimum security standards because it cannot afford the £2 billion price tag, according to internal Whitehall documents seen by the Guardian.

The papers also show that the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, is being advised to cover up from Parliament the failure to find the money for the security work, and to introduce a much delayed scaled down security package.

The need for an extra £2 billion of public money to provide the minimum security in the jails recommended by the official inquiry into the Parkhurst prison breakout has

remained a Whitehall secret since February. The scale of the funding problem facing ministers is similar to the cash needed to bail the Government out of the BSE crisis.

The disclosure comes as prison governors claim that record prison numbers recently led to inmates having to sleep on mattresses on the floor at one prison.

Home Office ministers told Parliament on December 13 Mr Howard would make a statement "in the spring" on his progress on implementing most of the recommendations of the inquiry report by General Sir John Learmont. Deci-

sions on some specific proposals such as the "super-maximum" security prison would not be made until later this year.

"There is a presentational problem," says an internal Whitehall submission to the Home Secretary written earlier this year. "Ministers would not wish to indicate that implementation of a significant security report was contingent on achieving adequate funding."

The document suggests alternative devices for omitting to tell MPs that he has not secured the necessary Treasury funding for Learmont's main recommendations.

The £2 billion bill spread over four years covers 73 of Learmont's 127 recommendations. They include bringing all prisons up to a minimum standard of security with strengthened perimeter fences and new closed circuit television systems; training for prison officers 14 days a year instead of the current five; replacing dormitory accommodation with cells; introducing electronic and magnetic locking systems; improving searching of visitors; and building a new "supermax" prison to hold the most dangerous inmates.

The documents say the cost-

ings are "ballpark figures" but say even if more work is done on them the total sums "will remain large, well beyond our ability to handle in the foreseeable future... we need to take a view on the priority we attach to the different elements of the Learmont report."

The Prison Service must decide which elements to press ahead with and which "it can put on the backburner indefinitely".

The documents suggest to Mr Howard he can delay making a full response until November — a year after Learmont reported — as long

as "there is not undue political pressure".

The senior civil servants admit that there is a "tangible tension between the expectations generated by the Learmont report, which ministers broadly supported, and the realities of staff and capital cuts which followed."

The document says that since the "dreadful White-moor and Parkhurst events" the prison service security performance has been much improved with a sharp reduction in the number of escapes. The senior civil servants suggest that the Treasury is pressed for an interim high

priority package to upgrade the high security prisons, costing a total of £118 million.

Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, said it is now clear why the real costs of the Learmont report had not been made public. "These costings in the current financial climate are not possible. The Learmont report will be one security measure that this administration just cannot afford. Cuts and minimum levels of security are clearly incompatible."

Whitehall tips, page 5; Leader comment, page 8

Russia puts Yeltsin on course for second term

David Hearst in Moscow

BORIS Yeltsin appeared on course to win a second term as Russia's president last night as early results and exit polls gave him a clear lead over his Communist challenger, Gennady Zyuganov.

But the Yeltsin camp's delight over his likely success will be tempered by renewed worries about the president's health, raising questions about who will wield real power in the Kremlin in the coming weeks and months.

With 15 per cent of the vote counted, Mr Yeltsin led by 62 to 41 per cent. A television exit poll estimated the Yeltsin lead at 15 per cent. But the president's men urged caution after turnout fell well below last month's first round. Final results will not be collated until today.

"The result is too optimistic. The red belt regions have not yet been included in the results and I think there will be some closing of the margin," Vyacheslav Nikonov, a senior Yeltsin campaign official, said. "The gap between the candidates will be less than 10 per cent."

Mr Yeltsin's big day began badly when he failed to cast his vote at a Moscow polling station where the world's media were awaiting him. It emerged that he had cast his vote in a private sanatorium.

The first Communist results to the results sounded like an admission of defeat. Anatoly Lukyanov, a leading member of the Zyuganov team, said: "We will take the results calmly. Our bloc will accept the result and we will be a weighty opposition force."

The first results came from

traditionally strong Yeltsin areas, and his campaign team were worried by reports of a low turnout in his heartland areas, such as Moscow, where the mayor appealed on local radio for people to vote, and his home city of Yekaterinburg, in the Urals.

With 14 regions which had closed polling by 6pm the turnout was a little over 62 per cent, just above the level that presidential supporters calculate would give him a clear lead over Mr Zyuganov.

The Communist leader has proved his ability to get faithful Communist voters out in two successive elections, but Mr Yeltsin's support built on a coalition with the nationalist General Alexander Lebed was always going to be harder to predict.

If Mr Yeltsin's clear margin of victory is confirmed, it may be enough to stamp his authority over feuding factions in the Kremlin and General Lebed's his loose cannon of a security adviser.

The day started with a public relations disaster for the presidential campaign, as Mr Yeltsin, aged 65, who had disappeared for a week amid conflicting reports about an alleged "heart threat" failed to show up at his local polling station.

He was filmed by his own cameras casting his vote in Barvikha, the elite sanatorium in which he spent a month recovering after two mild heart attacks last year.

Moving slowly, but managing a smile, Mr Yeltsin said: "All of you, absolutely all of you come to vote! Do not forget your duty!" His press spokesman, Sergei Medvedev, later explained the last-minute switch in the polling arrangements, claiming that Mr Yeltsin had got permission to vote in a different station the night before.

The prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, continued to insist that the president was all right. "Would I have left the country, had things been otherwise?" he said, referring to his recent trip to the G7 meeting in Lyon.

National television gave no hint of the morning crisis, showing instead a ticking clock showing the time left for voters. In an message that became dangerously two-edged, the clock was accompanied by the sound of a human heartbeat.

Mr Zyuganov arrived as his turn to vote, page 2, column 3



Sir Cliff Richard, with 'backing group' of (from left) Pam Shriver, Rosalyn Nideffer, Martina Navratilova and Gigi Fernandez, entertains at Wimbledon yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: GILL ALLEN

Sir Cliff to serve - with throwbacks

Richard Williams on how rain halted play and pop's sedate golden oldie held sway

JUST when Tim Henman threatened to bring British tennis into the modern era, up jumped Sir Cliff Richard on to the very same Wimbledon stage to take British pop music back into the dark ages.

Sir Cliff, the nation's number one tennis groupie as well as its oldest surviving pop star, took advantage of a long rain delay on men's quarter-finals day — which saw Henman's match postponed until today — to serenade the cold and frustrated Centre Court spectators from his seat in the royal box.

Pete Sampras and his Dutch opponent Richard Krajicek were at two games all in their first set when the drizzle set in. Three hours later, after the crowd had exhausted its repertoire of community singing and party games, Sir Cliff came to the rescue.

Commandeering a microphone and the empty royal box, he began his performance with, inevitably, Summer Holiday. "What next?" he asked. "Do you remember The Young Ones?" The faces of the many foreign visitors remained politely blank.

But there were enough genuine Brits in the crowd

to ensure that, even after 30-odd years of the Beatles and the Stones, the hand-clapping was resolutely anchored to the on-beat John Lennon, Mick Jagger, Johnny Rotten, Morrissey, Liam Gallagher — suddenly they seemed to have passed across the face of British culture with no more consequence than Bobby Wilson, Billy Knight, Roger Taylor, the Lloyd Brothers and Jeremy Bates.

As Sir Cliff swung into Bachelor Boy, an all-star backing vocal group filed into the row behind him: Pam Shriver, Martina Navratilova, Virginia Wade,

Gigi Fernandez, Elizabeth Smylie and half a dozen other past and present stars of the women's tennis tour.

"The Supremes!" Cliff said, beaming proudly. More like Gimmy and the Groin Strains, others felt.

Notable by her absence was Sue Barker, Sir Cliff's sometime alleged girlfriend. The 1976 French Open champion and current BBC-TV Wimbledon presenter is generally credited with lighting the fuse of his tennis obsession by teaching him to do something with his tennis racket other than imitate Hank Marvin.

But nothing could hold back Sir Cliff, who at 55 looked almost as boyish as the 21-year-old Henman.

All Shook Up and Livin' Doll whizzed by, in the atmosphere — enhanced by the large green canvas tent covering the court itself of a Boy Scout camp of the 1950s.

"This is the most unusual experience of my career," Sir Cliff announced. "I never thought I'd play the Centre Court."

But it couldn't last. "Who knows who we'll be singing this to on Sunday night?" he said, introducing Congratulations, which came second in the 1958 Eurovision Song Contest (not one hopes, an omen for Henman). And as the crowd swayed in wait time, the sun came out. Just like Woodstock, really.

Wimbledon reports, page 16



Knobbly beer? page 2; Russian election, page 7

Ground staff wait to mop up after the rain PHOTO: TOM JENKINS

Summer blues
"We're going where the sun shines brightly
We're going where the sea is blue
Seen it in the movies
Now let's see if it's true"

A verse from Sir Cliff's hit, Summer Holiday

STILL WATER
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Sketch

Indiana Major and the temple of Scone



Simon Hoggart

THE message on the Commons monitors was dramatic: "Statement: The Stone of Destiny". Some of us had no idea what the Stone of Destiny was. I vaguely imagined it must be a milky-white phosphorescent thing in a Harrison Ford film. The evil Nazi steals it and holds it up, cackling: "Yes, Ha! Ha! It is mine! The Stone of Destiny is mine! Now I have absolute power and will rule the world!" Then the Stone gets crossed and turns him into a pile of dust. It didn't sound much like John Major. Anyway, it seems he was using the post name for the Stone of Scone. I always enjoyed the fact that at Scottish Tory conferences in Perth, the cake stand was staffed by members of Scone Conservative Association. The Prime Minister rose to make a statement about returning the Stone to Scotland. This was meant to be freighted with historical resonance. "Exactly 700 years ago, in 1286, King Edward I of England brought it from Scotland and housed it in Westminster Abbey," he intoned, rather like the Archbishop of Canterbury crowning someone, or at least appearing on Stars on Sunday. So he was hurt when Scottish Labour MPs started jeering and gurgling. One even shouted "Come on, Jock!" when he stood up. It was one of those mass outbreaks of laughter which start for no obvious reason, but take hold of the participants who become helpless in its grip. Maybe they were amused by the barefaced political chutzpah. It has been Suck Up To Scotland week in the Commons, and this was the craziest piece of opportunism yet. Perhaps it was Mr Major's March Of History prose style. "I now wish to inform the House that, on the advice of

Her Majesty's Ministers, the Stone should be returned to Scotland," he declared. Whatever the reason, every word was greeted with louder ribaldry. "The Stone of Destiny holds a special place in the hearts of all Scots... return it to its historic homeland... the Stone will be installed with due dignity." By the end, Labour MPs were helpless with laughter. Not so Mr Blair, who managed a coherent reply. Mr Major congratulated him in one of his circular sentences. "I am glad you treated the matter with the seriousness it deserved and not the levity which so many of your MPs seemed to regard a matter that will be regarded as of very great importance in Scotland."

Various Scottish Tories stood up to say what a splendid gesture he had made. Opposition Tories said the opposite. Sir David Steel said that Scots didn't just want the symbol, but the substance. John Maxton (Lab, Cathcart) didn't even want the symbol. People who wanted a Scottish parliament, he said, "do not believe that the return of a feudal, medieval symbol of tyranny is any more than a total irrelevance." Mr Major looked as if he would happily drop the Stone on Mr Maxton's toe. Tommy Graham (Lab, Renfrew) had an appalling idea. "For every thousand unemployed people we should get a bagpiper and march the Stone with 200 unemployed bagpipers from one end of the country to another!" Mr Major replied that unemployment was falling in Scotland. "When we have that pipers we will have people with new jobs, with permanent jobs, following that pipers, instead of all those people who were only in work because of subsidies."

A march of the employed, with pipers! Perhaps they could march from London to Jarrold, in order to gloat about their good fortune. Still, it could be worse. Mr Graham might have suggested instead 200 pipers for every person out of work. I also know that John Major is the kind of person who would insist on taking the Stone in cabin baggage—and I would be the bloke stuck behind him in the gangway.

Free vote expected on proposals to give backbenchers £9,000 more and ministers a £30,000 increase

PM set for £60,000 rise

Downing Street, declined yesterday to reveal which way he will vote next week. John Major did not disclose his view, either. But Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, is to vote against and will back a 3 per cent increase in line with inflation.

Details of the pay rises were revealed yesterday with the leaking of a report by the Senior Staff Salaries Review Board to the Press Association 24 hours before it was due to be discussed by the Cabinet. The report calls for substantial rises to redress a long period in which MPs' pay has been tied to inflation after Lady Thatcher removed the link with civil service grades.

The report recommends salaries of £103,000 per year for cabinet ministers and the Speaker, an increase of over £33,000 on the present £69,531 a year. Ministers of state would receive £74,125 and junior ministers £56,623, rises of between £15,000 and £20,000 a year. MPs' pay rises are tempered by a substantial curb on motor mileage allowances. The report describes the top rate of mileage paid, 74.1p, as "unjustifiably generous" and recommends reducing the level to that paid to peers, 47.2p a mile. This could mean the loss for an MP running up 10,000 miles of nearly £2,500 a year. Office costs allowances for

MPs, currently £2,968, will rise to £36,556 if the report is agreed. The SSRB report has found room for a big increase in the prime minister's and cabinet ministers' pay by recommending that they receive a full parliamentary salary of £43,000 to recognise the fact that their responsibilities as MPs continue unabated. At present, they receive a reduced MP's allowance. Reaction last night was mixed. The veteran Labour MP, Alf Morris, who has campaigned for better pensions for MPs, welcomed the move. The Conservative former trade minister, Alan Clark, disagreed. "If anything they should get a cut," he said.

Labour's transport spokeswoman, Clare Short, said she would oppose the rises, until there had been a thorough review of MPs' jobs. Mr Major, in an interview with Classic FM radio, said he had written to the leaders of every party seeking their views "to see if we could reach a consensus. I haven't yet had replies from all of them. But those I have heard from seem simply to be saying that it is a matter for the House of Commons, and they don't wish to express a party view." Mick Graham of the GMB said: "The prime minister's pay goes up £50,000 while local government workers are offered 11p an hour. What

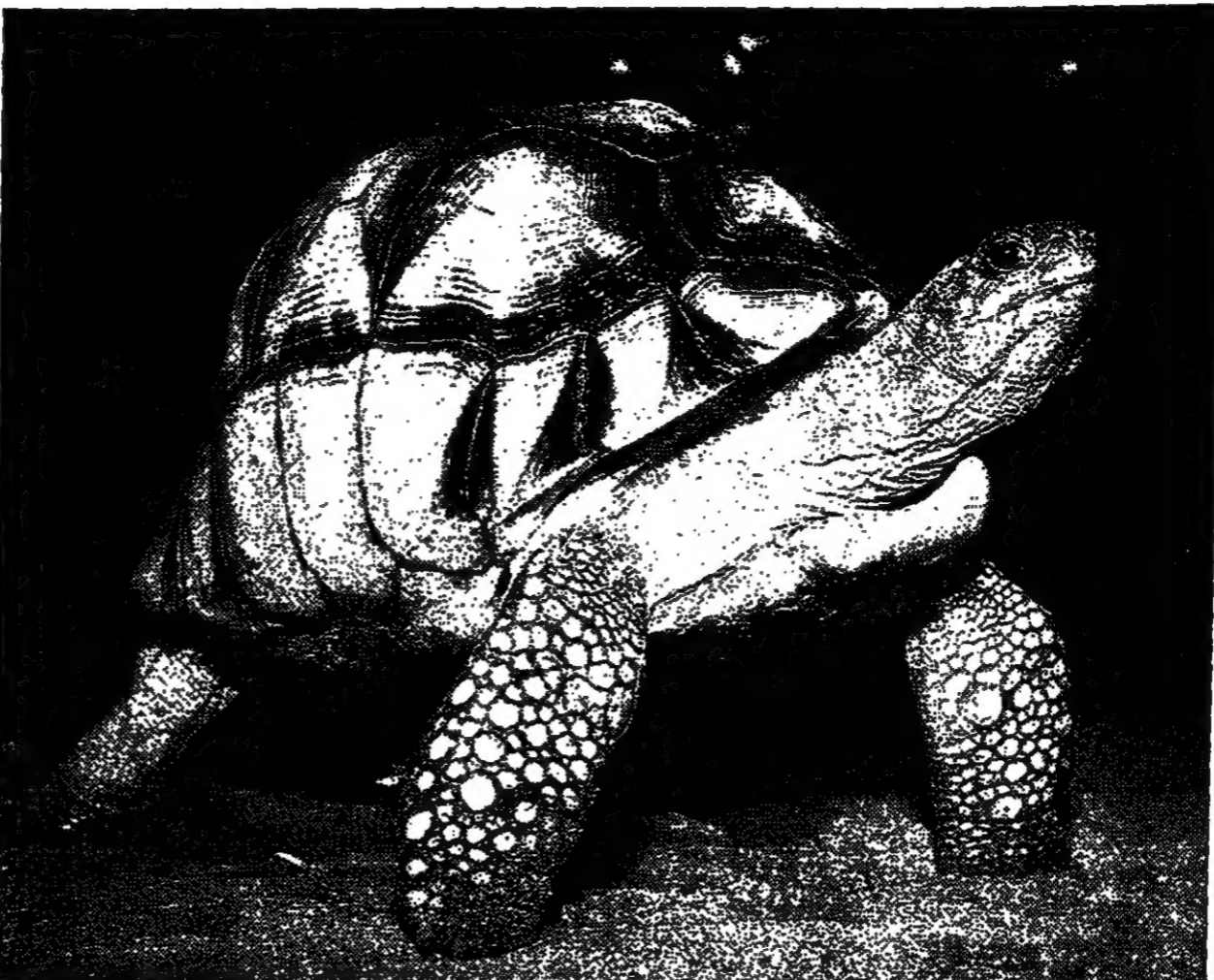
makes it even worse is that the dustmen, cleaners and school meals staff actually deliver on their jobs. John Major's performance should leave him taking a pay cut." Sir Colin Marshall, president of the CBI and chairman of British Airways, said: "This is an enormous level of increase, a great deal more than people in BA or in the economy generally are getting." Support came, however, from Cedric Brown, the former chief executive of British Gas, whose pay rise sparked off the "fat cat" controversy. He said: "I am sure a prime minister is worth every penny of this pay rise."

Leader comment, page 8



Tortoise snatch risks wipe-out

Ian Katz on the fate of a rare species



Don Reid (above left), encouraged by Gerald Durrell (above right), built up a flock of the rare ploughshare tortoises

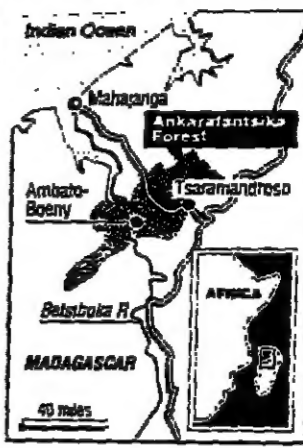
THE CAST includes a former bait and tackle salesman from Essex, a Dutch animal detective, an environmentalist hitman and 75 of the world's rarest tortoises. The action takes place on three continents. Welcome to the case of the Great Ploughshare Tortoise Heist, a 1990s saga of greed, criminal ingenuity and environmental activism that could determine the fate of an entire species. The drama began on a clear moonlit night in the Ankarafantsika Forest of Madagascar when persons unknown cut two holes in a chain-link fence and stole two adult ploughshare tortoises and 73 hatchlings. The loss amounted to an ecological disaster since the ploughshare is perilously close to extinction, with only about 400 believed to be living in captivity or in the animals' tiny natural habitat in Madagascar. "It is a major tragedy," said John Bartley, co-ordinator of overseas projects for the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, the Channel Islands zoo which funded the ploughshare breeding programme from which the reptiles were stolen. "This is the world's rarest tortoise and half of the total captive population has been stolen."

The ploughshare tortoise's flirtation with extinction owes much to its profound lack of enthusiasm for sex. Males will mate only when they are aroused by fighting other animals, using the plough-shaped protruberance which gives them their name. "A lone male kept with any number of luscious, buxom and voluptuous females (by tortoise standards) just tends to wander round forlornly, ignoring the wiles and manifold attractions of the females,

simply because he has no one to fight." wrote Gerald Durrell, the naturalist and novelist who founded the Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust. Which is where Don Reid comes in. The former owner of a bait and tackle store and cricket fanatic was breeding crocodiles when Durrell persuaded him to move to Madagascar for a year to try to save the ploughshare. Ten years later he had built up a flock of about 150 ploughshares at a remote facility in the

Madagascar jungle. But now, it seemed, the years of work had been wiped out in the few minutes it took to clear half of his locked compound. A huge global manhunt, which involves 100 officers in at least five different countries, was launched within hours of the animals' disappearance on May 6. Will Luitj, the Dutch detective co-ordinating the hunt, is convinced the ploughshares were stolen by professional smugglers.

He said the animals are bought by collectors determined to secretly breed their own colonies of endangered creatures. Mr Luitj is convinced the ploughshares are spread around several countries. "We know exactly who's involved in this case but we need evidence to do something," he said. But just as investigators seemed to be catching up with the villains, the case took a surreal twist. Mr Luitj and his team received word that "some ecological anarchist group" was attempting to arrange the assassination of the suspected smugglers. Mr Luitj is reticent about the details of the alleged hit contract, disclosing only that he has passed the information to Interpol. His own investigation continues.



He said the animals are bought by collectors determined to secretly breed their own colonies of endangered creatures.

Review

Techno by the Tiber? Spooky!

Dave Simpson

EVERYONE agreed that this was the most surreal event they had seen. A neo-symphonic Techno outfit playing their own free festival on the banks of the Tiber, whatever reason. The setting was not just perfect, it was breathtaking. The stage was within casting distance of the ancient river. At each side, two sets of pine trees were illuminated by red light looking like scenery in a magical river grotto. The illuminations extended to the river, where a succession of spotlights made it possible to see underwater plants moving, and two nearby bridges were similarly spotted. A gathering of mosquitoes flitted in and out of the lights like tiny glow flies. Or perhaps they were just dancing to the music. Spooky are one of the most adventurous acts to come out of Britain, and perhaps it was expected that they would conjure up such a bizarre gig. The band—Charlie May has drummed an initial £20 million aid package. The goal should be to "redesign the city centre... for the 21st century". An international competition will have a deadline for tenders by November and substantial changes are expected within the next three years. All the initial funding would come from Europe and would be expected to be matched by private sector or local authority contributions. It would include £20 million from the UK's allocation of European structural funds.

Private cash will rebuild city

Martyn Halsall

AREAS of central Manchester bombed by the IRA are likely to attract hundreds of millions of pounds of private investment, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday as he unveiled an initial £20 million aid package. The goal should be to "redesign the city centre... for the 21st century". An international competition will have a deadline for tenders by November and substantial changes are expected within the next three years. All the initial funding would come from Europe and would be expected to be matched by private sector or local authority contributions. It would include £20 million from the UK's allocation of European structural funds.

A bloated voter with a suspected knobby liver

Luisa Dillner

BORIS Yeltsin's carefully staged appearance at the ballot box yesterday gave few clues as to what is medically wrong with him. It was only possible to rule out that he has not had a stroke, or a massive heart attack. For a man of 55 he looks older and sicker than many of his contemporaries. Although he looked pale and stiff he was walking unaided and moving both arms—a full blown stroke would make this unlikely. Some observers have noted his speech is slurred and he struggles to produce coherent sentences. His face is bloated and puffy. His pre-election bout of disco dancing was not a convincing display of care-free good health. If anything, it backed up displays of uninhibited public singing that indicated his brain as well as his body was unwell. Most of what is reported about President Yeltsin's health is speculation. The US press says he has liver cirrhosis caused by too much vodka. Cirrhosis causes chronic damage in which the liver looks knobby and is no longer as effective in getting rid of toxic substances from the blood. If Mr Yeltsin is an alcoholic, this could explain at least some of his symptoms. His sudden absences from public life could be due to alcoholic blackouts after binge drinking. Although he may recover quickly it would leave him shaky and verbally challenged. Chronic drinking damages the frontal part of the brain which can lead to impulsive and inappropriate behaviour. Alcoholism can also cause dementia. If Mr Yeltsin's sickness is a legacy of alcoholism,



President Yeltsin casts his vote in Barvikha yesterday

this does not bode well for Russia. It is therefore more charitable and optimistic to put his ill health down to heart problems. Eugène L'Etang, author of *Allying Leaders in Power*, claims Mr Yeltsin had rheumatic fever at the age of 11 which scarred his mitral heart valve. This has predisposed him to heart failure, which would make him tired and short of breath and would cause ankle swelling. Drugs can often control symptoms. Mr Yeltsin is also said to have angina and to have had at least one heart attack. He often slips his right hand into the left side of his jacket, although it is not obvious that he is suffering from chest pain at the time. The Russian president would have been hard pushed to walk around 48 hours after a heart attack but could have recovered from a bout of angina in which the heart muscle is deprived of blood for a while—but not so much that a part of it dies. Whatever the cause of Mr Yeltsin's ill health, most newspapers will already have his obituary in hand. Perhaps only after death will we find out what was wrong with him.

Yeltsin on course for second term

continued from page 1

Mr Yeltsin's lifelong rival, the former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, and the extreme nationalist leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, both ostentatiously cast their votes against both candidates. As the day progressed, there reports of allegations of communist fraud. These were given a lengthy airing at the first election briefing of the day by the presidential election analyst, Vyacheslav Nikonov. With doubts about his health, Mr Yeltsin needs a strong lead to stop the inevitable allegations of fraud from the losing side.

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Stone of Scone's going home after 700 years

Michael White
Political Editor

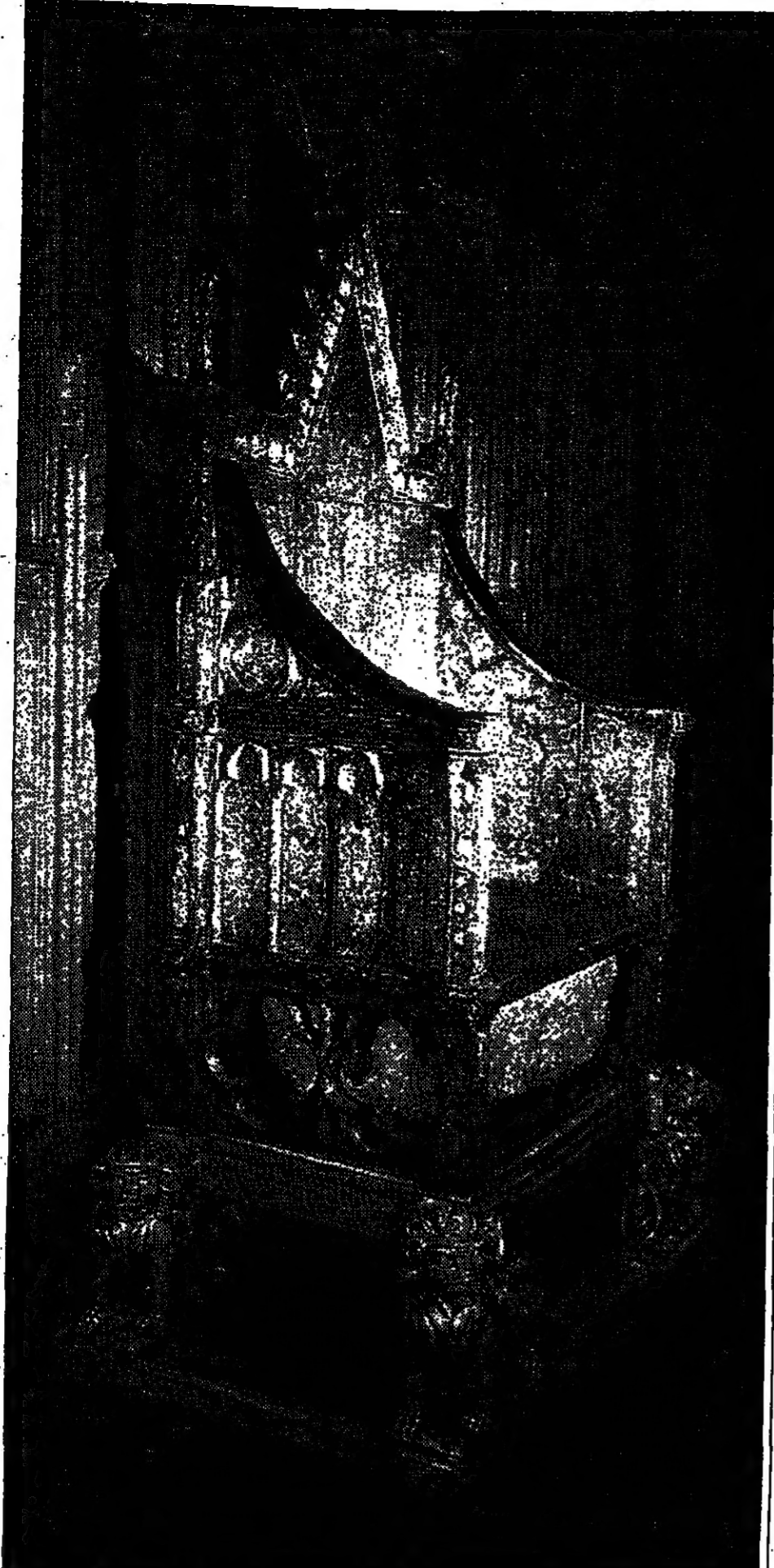
JOHAN Major delighted patriotic Scots but astonished the political establishment at Westminster yesterday by unexpectedly announcing that the ancient Stone of Scone is to be returned to Scotland 700 years after it was seized by the marauding English.

Major's gesture would renew pressure on Britain to hand back other cultural icons seized during its imperial heyday, notably the Elgin Marbles. The Stone is the property of the Queen and is simply being removed from one part of her kingdom to another, the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, confirmed. Ministers also tried to squash the instant revival of another legend, that the Stone, which was stolen by the English in 1296, was not returned to its place below the Coronation Chair in 1952 — the year before the Queen became the latest monarch to be crowned above it.

Since Jacob's pillow — as it is supposed to be — reached the now-ruined Scone Abbey in 846 via Egypt, Spain and Ireland's sacred hill at Tara, mere paper-work is unlikely to prove anything conclusively. By comparison Mel Gibson's Oscar-winning blockbuster *Braveheart* — in which Edward I is cast as the villain — is a model of accuracy. Mr Forsyth, who initiated yesterday's decision, repeatedly stressed: "I do not regard this as a political gesture, which is why Mr Major had resisted the temptation to save yesterday's Commons statement for his appearance at the Scottish grand committee in Dumfries tomorrow. Instead he stressed the Stone's religious symbolism."

Mr Forsyth's claim is one which few will believe of such a wily politician. He has been working to boost Scottish political self-esteem through a series of symbolic moves, including tomorrow's committee session in Dumfries. Many MPs see the decision as chiefly symbolic of the Tories' 15 per cent share in Scottish opinion polls.

With some Labour MPs dismissing the Stone as an irrelevant symbol of "feudal medieval tyranny", Andrew Faulds even questioned Mr Major's claim that Scotland's crown jewels — to be displayed with the Stone — are Europe's oldest. Hungary's are older, he claimed. Mr Forsyth, who has spent the past year hammering Labour's "tartan tax", called his initiative "a confident act of celebration of our United Kingdom and the Union of the Crowns". Ministers stress the Stone will be returned to Westminster for the coronation of the next monarch, assuming there is one, and that England and Scotland are still on speaking terms.



The stone in place under the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey, to where it was returned in 1952 after being stolen on Christmas Day 1950

Heavyweight royal relic with a rocky history

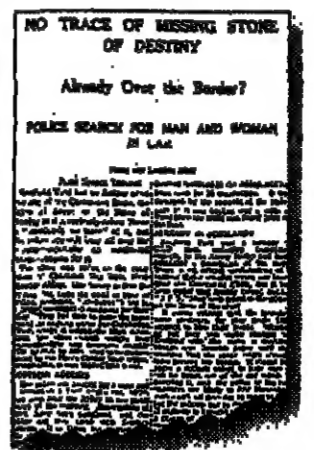
Erlend Clouston on a legend and a rival claim to authenticity

ARGYLL had better brace itself for a rush of pilgrims. Forty-eight hours after New Age traveller Andrew Cunnell delivered a high-profile prayer to the Great Spirit from the region's mystic hillock of Dunadd, the Prime Minister was impelled by supernatural forces to give up its most celebrated adornment. There are two versions of the Stone of Destiny's origin. The boring one, developed by nationalist novelist Compton Mackenzie, has the 33lb sandstone slab chiselled from rocks near Oban. Romantics prefer the notion that it was deposited on top of Dunadd, crowning place of the early Irish/Caledonian monarchs, by a muscular Egyptian princess called Scotia.

After a hazardous voyage via Sicily, Spain and Ireland, the pair allegedly entered Scotland in tandem with the successful fourth century invaders of Antrim's Dal Riata tribe. Now embellished with a blessing by St Patrick, the stone was used as the crowning stool for a succession of Scottish monarchs until 846AD when Kenneth mac Alpin transferred it 90 miles inland to new and safer royal headquarters at Scone. In the future Perthshire, the stone's aura of spiritual antiquity was especially valued at Scottish coronations, access to holy oil. Its constitutional potency finally prompted Edward I, during the devolutionary contest of 1296, to make a pro-union strike and remove it to London. A subsequent 1328 promise to return the stone was never kept, a betrayal which prompted four Scottish nationalists to liberate the geological relic 622 years later in 1950.



Edward I (left) first smashed the stone, whose later theft, as reported in the Manchester Guardian in 1950, ended with its recovery at Arbroath Abbey in 1951 (right)



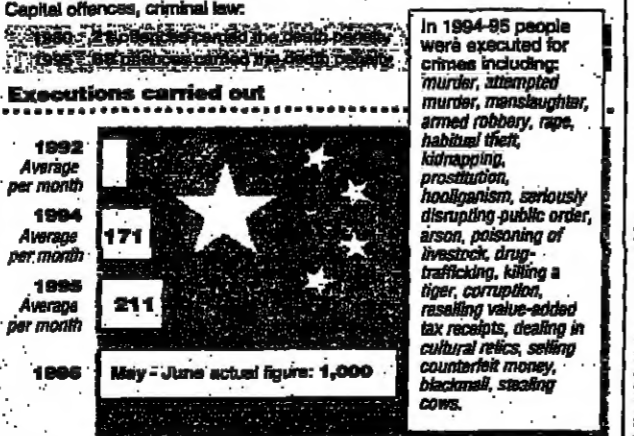
Here the trail forks again. The official theory has it that the stone was left, after four months, to be retrieved by the agents of the state in Arbroath Abbey. Last night, however, the Rev John Nimmo insisted that Mr Major is sending back a fake stone. According to Mr Nimmo, aged 76, chaplain to Scotland's 200 Knights Templar, Scotia and Gedyll-Glays' baggage now sits by the baptismal font in the order's 12th century church at Dull, Perthshire. As Mr Nimmo understands it, the real stone was switched by the sculptor employed by the kidnappers to repair earlier damage possibly caused by suffragettes. An X-ray machine may have to be called in to settle the issue. "Before it was made up, a piece of paper was inserted certifying that it was the real Stone of Scotland," said Mr Nimmo. "It was signed by the sculptor, his foreman and John MacCor-mick, the rector of Glasgow University." Mr MacCor-mick was also one of the founders of the Scottish National Party. Mr Nimmo does not rule out the possibility of Scotland ending up with two stones. "We may hand ours over too, but I'll have to consult the members of the order about it first," he said.

Execution epidemic as China tackles crime

John Gittings

CHINA is carrying out executions on a "massive scale" in a frenzied campaign to stamp out a nationwide crime wave. At least 1,000 people have been summarily shot in the past two months, says Amnesty International. Most are tried in public and their sentences are applauded by cheering crowds. Many are peasants who have not been given time for a proper defence. Prisoners are put on trial in city squares or stadiums with hands tied behind their backs. Some are in shackles with ropes around their necks. Most are driven off immediately in an open truck and are paraded around the town before being shot on an execution ground. "The broad masses of people clapped their hands with joy," said one official report, when 18 criminals were sentenced to death in Xianyang City, Shaanxi Province. Public rallies across China on June 28 to sentence people accused of drug offences were attended by 1.75 million people — nearly 1.5 per cent of the population. More than 230 of those convicted were executed on the same day. Amnesty says this is "state killing on a massive scale". It calls on China to stop what has become a "hysterical" campaign. Beijing launched the campaign to "strike back" against criminals at the end of April. The Communist Party leadership was responding to widespread alarm that crime and lawlessness are thriving in

Executions in China



the new climate of economic reform. But Amnesty says many of those executed are given no time to defend themselves. Some are victims of the calendar: a year ago they would only have been jailed. Last month three men were executed in Heilongjiang province for "the serious case of stealing farm animals". Peasant migrants seeking jobs in the cities are blamed — often unfairly — for creating the new crime wave. On Tuesday, five out of six men were executed in Beijing came from the provinces. In Guangdong province, which borders on Hong Kong, there are said to be 600,000 peasants seeking work who have "flooded in" and "jostled in the streets". The Chinese media has issued calls to "deal a fatal blow" to criminals. It complains that "ruffians and evil forces" are roaming the countryside and reports the re-

Strike vote by pilots means BA faces loss of £40m a day

Suzanne Milne
Labour Editor

BRITISH Airways pilots overwhelmingly voted over-whelmingly to strike over pay and in-flight conditions, raising the prospect of disruption at airports at the peak of the holiday season. Pilots and flight engineers backed the call for the first flight crew walkout for 18 years by a margin of nine to one in a 94 per cent turnout. Just under 3,000 members of the British Airline Pilots Association took part in the strike ballot. The first stoppage, which threatens to ground BA's fleet at a cost of £40 million a day, could take place within two weeks. The company carries 90,000 people a day on 525 flights. Voting was 2,687 to 282. BA professed itself baffled as to why its pilots — whose average basic pay is £57,000 and the most senior of whom can earn £100,000 including allowances — should strike against a 3.6 per cent offer. At the heart of Balpa's concerns is the gap between pay of pilots at Euro Gatwick and that of flight crew working for the main BA business. The average Gatwick captain earns £39,000-£52,000 and BA will only narrow the differential in exchange for productivity gains. The Gatwick operation is being expanded and Balpa fears it will be used to undercut rates for the majority of pilots — particularly as BA is seeking to reduce entry rates for fully trained pilots from £32,488 to £27,000 (entry rate for cadets is £18,000).

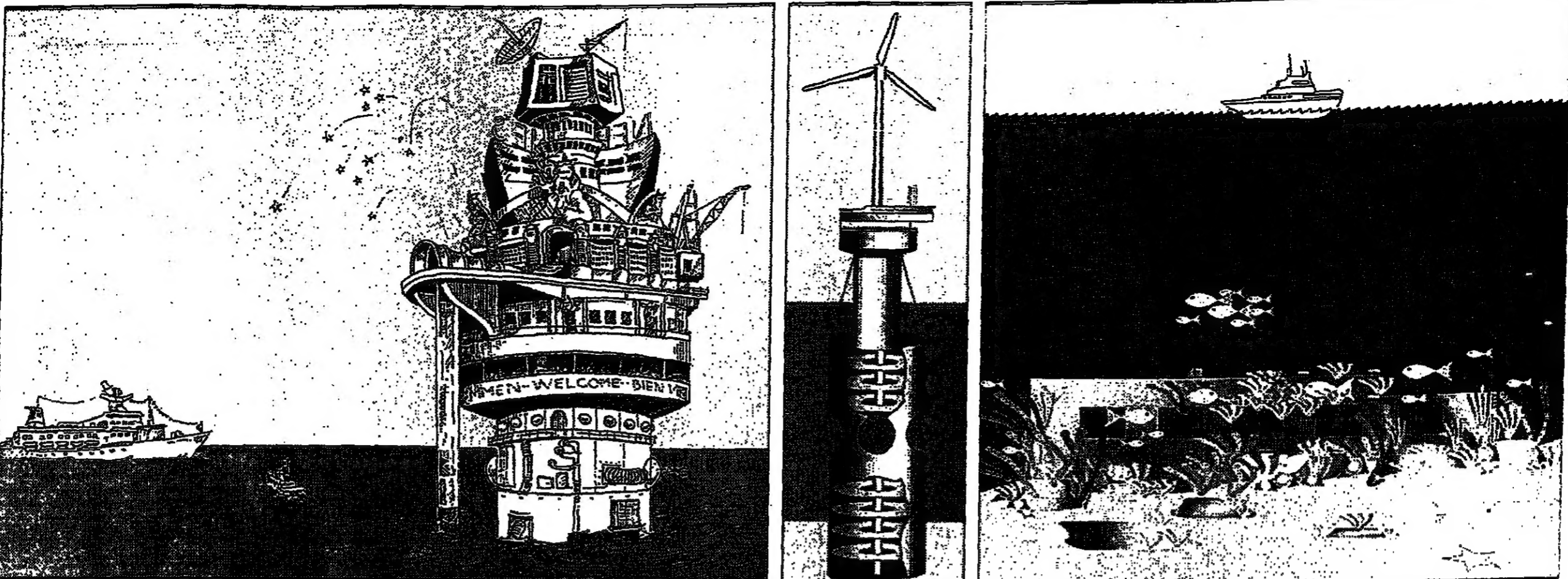
He is bitter over the way Manchester seems to have been sidelined by the Government — a feeling reinforced when he got a £24 parking fine after being told to move his car when Michael Heseltine visited the city last week.
Peter Hetherington, G2 cover story

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Oil firm courts public support as it suggests uses for North Sea platform ranging from offshore casino to fish farm



Brent Spar's future... Among the hundreds of suggestions for the re-use of the giant oil platform received by Shell are as an offshore casino out of reach of British taxes; as a wind or wave generator; and as an underwater reef for a fish farm

Shell raises new doubts on fate of Brent Spar

Owen Bowcott

THE gigantic Brent Spar platform could be turned into an offshore casino, floating wind generator or submerged fish farm, Shell, the oil company, has suggested.

Amid international consultation over the fate of the 300ft structure, the firm yesterday presented fresh claims about the danger of the environmental lobby's favoured option — onshore decommissioning.

This steel casing around the platform's underwater storage tankers could, according to an engineering survey ordered by Shell, implode and sink the platform.

Since last summer, following the furor over plans to dispose of it at sea, Brent Spar has been sheltering in the deep water of Erfjord in Norway. The monthly mooring fees of £35,000 are minuscule compared with the £11 million spent on removing it from the North Sea and countering adverse publicity.

After the company suspended its plan to dump at sea, Shell admitted it had failed to explain what it was doing early enough. It believes sinking the rig at sea may yet prove the best environmental option.

With the oil company's operations in Nigeria's Ogoniland also the subject of controversy following the execution of environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa, it has assiduously courted public support for its actions.

"Many people haven't appreciated how huge Brent Spar actually is," said Shell's decommissioning manager, Eric Faulds, yesterday. "It's like an iceberg, with only a small part showing above the sea. People overlook its enormous submerged draught of 109 metres."

It is longer than a football field and weighs the same as 2,000 double-deck buses. "It was highly stressed at the time of installation. Its metal plates are close to the point of failure," Mr Faulds added.

As for alternative uses, Shell has received more than 450 letters and plans from around the world. One suggestion was for Brent Spar to become a tax-free casino; another was for it to become a wind turbine.

Several companies came up with the idea of creating underwater reefs for fish farms. One plan was for Brent Spar to be used as the foundation of a high arched bridge spanning the entrance to Poole harbour in Dorset. Another envisaged turning it into a floating hotel with the helicopter deck doubling as an open air dance floor.

A total of 21 engineering contractors are currently drawing up plans for disposal or re-use of Brent Spar. Their plans must be submitted by July 31.

Greenpeace, which remains opposed to deep water disposal, welcomed Shell's new approach but dismissed the company's warnings about the structure's fragility.

Father of child born to coma woman may sue hospital

A MAN is taking legal advice after claiming that doctors ignored his wishes that his critically ill girlfriend and their unborn baby should be allowed to die. Sarah Mapes, aged 22, was taken to hospital after collapsing at the home she shared with Steven Davies, aged 31, in Keyhaven, Hampshire, last December.

Sarah, who had a history of thrombosis, was treated at Southampton general hospital for a blood clot on the brain. She was kept on a life-support machine for four weeks until the baby, Jack, could be delivered by caesarean section on January 11, after 28 weeks gestation. He weighed 2lb 2oz at birth.

Miss Mapes never regained consciousness and died four days later. Now Mr Davies, who has given up work to care for Jack, may sue the hospital.

Although they had lived together for 16 months, the decision to keep her and the baby alive fell to her parents, as legal guardians. He is unable to forget the ordeal his

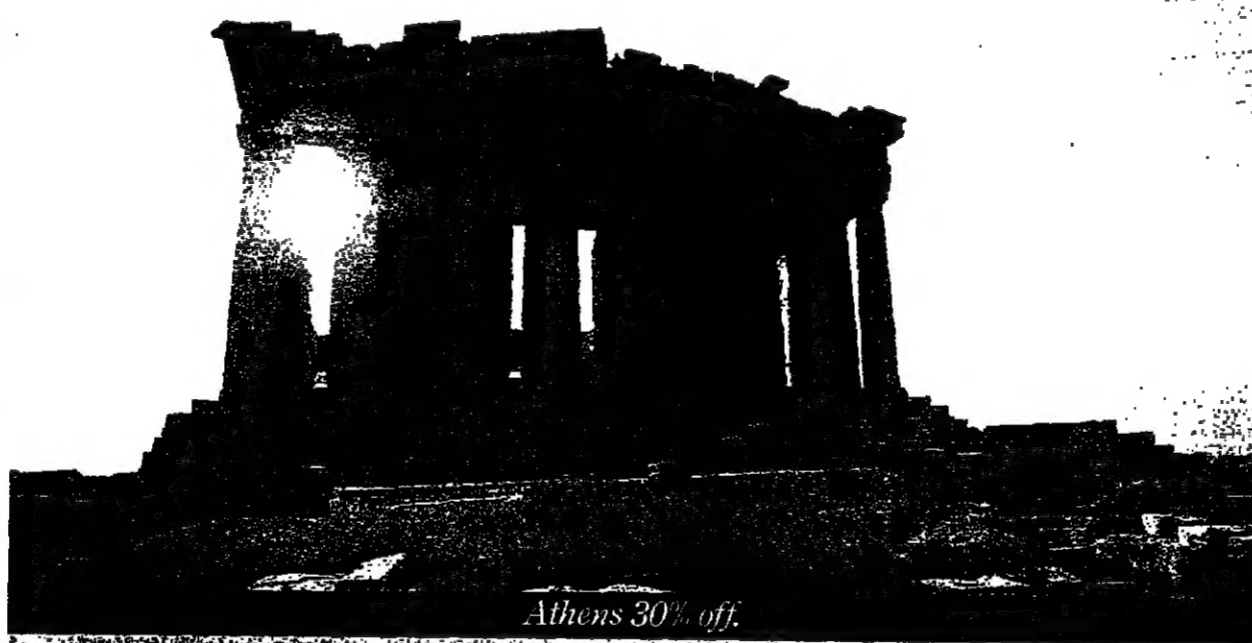
girlfriend went through. He said of Jack: "When I look at him I just think of Sarah and what she was put through so he could be with us. I am not saying I ever want to give him up or feel any spite towards him."

"But I just know what his mum went through and that is something no one should have to experience. I wanted Sarah and the unborn baby to be allowed to die naturally, with dignity, and I feel my wishes were ignored. I asked doctors to switch off the machine which was keeping them both alive. It is what Sarah would have wanted. What I wanted was to let her go."

"Any shred of humanity was just taken away from her. She was not treated as a person, she was treated as a human incubator."

Sarah's mother, Mrs Jennifer Mapes, aged 42, said: "We got to the stage where we knew there was little hope for Sarah. We thought if we couldn't keep our daughter alive we must do everything possible for our grandchild."

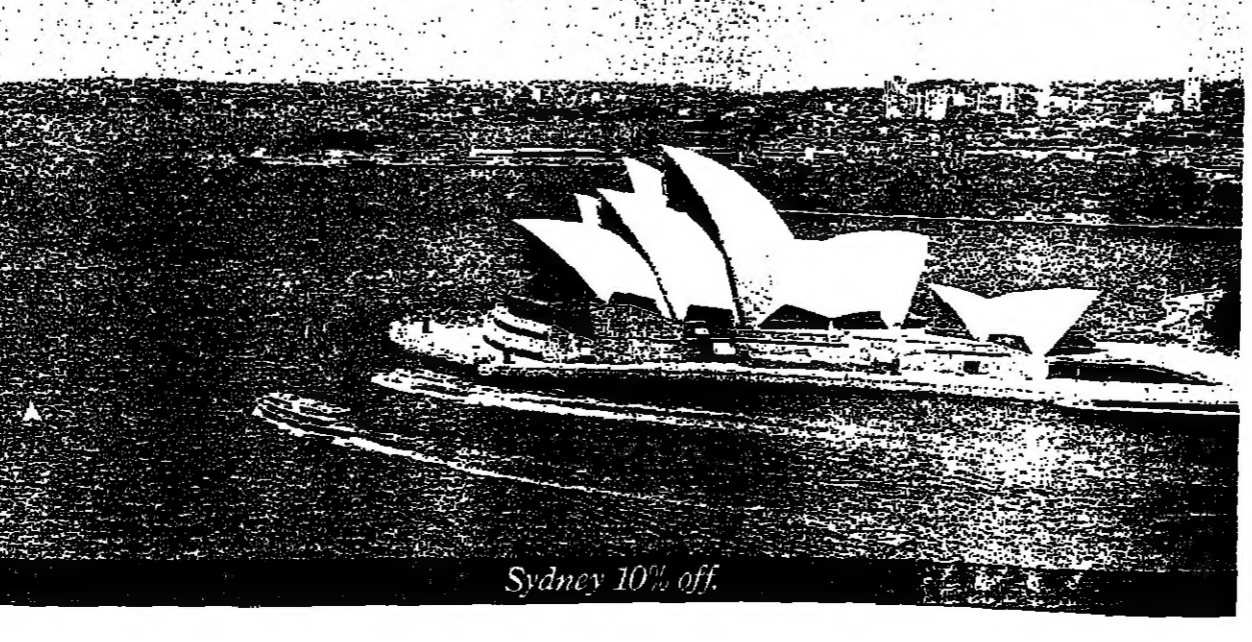
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Eclair declares that if she were Prime Minister, there would be a tax on fat people, one shed for every man and a better residence for the country's leader than Number 10.
Anita Chaudhuri

Page 4

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Statues to vie for plinth under Nelson's eye

Alex Bellos on new battle of Trafalgar

THE prospect of a horse in a tank of formaldehyde joining Nelson and George IV in overlooking Trafalgar Square became a distinct possibility yesterday when it was announced that contemporary artists will be asked to build sculptures for London's most conspicuous empty plinth.

For 150 years the 24ft-high plinth in the north-west corner of the square has remained empty because no one could agree what to put on it. Now, a plan backed by the Queen and John Major has broken the stalemate: it will have a different statue a year for five years, one from Victorian times, another from the early 20th century, and three to be commissioned by the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce mooted the idea of using the plinth two years ago, it received about 1,000 suggestions from the public. Many wanted a statue of some sort of hero, such as Paul Gascoigne,



Watch this space... The plinth at Trafalgar Square where statues will come and go over a five-year period

PHOTOGRAPH: KUPPER MATTHEWS

Margaret Thatcher, or Nelson Mandela. Pru Leith, chairwoman of the society, said: "I think Gazza is a wonderful footballer but I am not sure if he is right. A sporting hero is fine but the general guidelines are no living heroes because you never know what they will do." On the north-east corner of the square a matching plinth has a statue of George IV on a horse. The surface area is a rectangle of 14ft by 6ft, making it the perfect size for an equestrian piece. Asking Turner Prize winner Damien Hirst, whose works include various

horse-sized animals floating in formaldehyde, to design a sculpture was a possibility. "He has not been ruled out but neither has he been approached," the organisers said. It is hoped that the project, estimated to cost up to £3 million, will be funded by the Arts Council's Lottery Board. An application for a small amount for a feasibility study has already been submitted. The study will identify the best way of selecting existing works and commissioning new ones. James Lingwood, of the ArtAngel Trust, said the plan was reviving a tradi-

tion of public sculpture around the area. There was a rich seam of talented contemporary British sculptors to be tapped, such as Michael Sandie and Rachel Whiteread. The Canadian High Commission facing the plinth has expressed an interest in staging an exhibition in which people could learn the history of the square and vote for their preferred sculpture. Mrs Leith said that with the help of the Department of National Heritage and Westminster Council, which will have the final say, the first sculpture could be in place next year.

Alternative food for thought

AKE Chapman and his brother, Dines, who are the sculpture world's *enfant terrible*, would like to see a hot dog stand which gave out free hot dogs after midnight on Trafalgar Square's empty plinth, writes Hannah Pool. "Or maybe a cybernetic sculpture of Stephen Hawking to answer all our questions, like an oracle," said Jake Chapman. "It would be very easy to make and we would be happy to do it." But the brothers, whose exhibition of sexually morbid

mannequins at the Institute of Contemporary Arts has defied as many as it pleased, are probably unlikely to be commissioned. A more likely candidate is Anthony Gormley, who designed the 175ft steel angel destined for Gateshead. He said: "The time of statues is over and maybe the time of plinths is also over. "It would be more of a challenge, and a better sign of confidence in our contemporary culture, to offer somebody the chance to re-do the entire square."

Eight charities share mystery donor's £9m

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

A CHARITY with no staff and an annual income of £18,000 is one of eight causes receiving an anonymous donation of £1.2 million each in one of the biggest individual charitable gifts of recent years. Another beneficiary is a fund run by Benedictine monks at West Abbey, West Sussex, for missionary work in Peru. The donations, totalling £9.7 million, have come from a source which solicitors have described only as a private individual. It is believed, however, that the money has been paid by a Liechtenstein-based trust fund set up under the estate of a British woman who died in 1993.

The director of one charity said yesterday: "The cash arrived in American dollars drawn on a British bank in the Middle East from someone in Liechtenstein. I think it's safe to assume this involves enormous offshore interests." The spread of the gifts suggests somebody with typical commitment to children's and cancer causes, and also unusual interest in Peruvian missionaries, gardeners' welfare and physical therapy. Among the eight recipients are the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society, the College of Occupational Therapists and the British Association of Hand Therapists. The association was reluctant yesterday to discuss its windfall. It is both a charity and a professional organisation of therapists who treat people with hand injuries. It has no staff and has relied for income on the subscriptions of its 250 members, an annual total of £18,000. The monastic leaders of the Friends of Peru were unavailable for comment on how their £1.2 million will help Worth Abbey's Lima mission. Other charities were more forthcoming. Colin Bunce, chief executive of the gardeners' benevolent society, described its gift as "wonderful and extremely exciting". It would go towards rebuilding the society's nursing home for retired gardeners in Hen-

field, West Sussex. The charity's normal annual income is £2 million, of which less than half is expected from bequests. John Thompson, chief executive of the occupational therapists' college, which has a usual income of just over £3 million, said he was still coming to terms with the gift. "The first thing that comes to mind is that this must be someone who has received excellent service from one of our members, or knows someone else who has," he said. Bengie Walden, director of the International Spinal Research Trust, another recipient, said £1.2 million would enable the charity to start and fully fund a further five research programmes on spinal injury or disorder. The donation more than doubled the trust's annual income, he said. "Whoever this is obviously has, or had, colourful and catholic interests."

but we have no idea why we should have benefited. Of course, we are delighted." Other, larger charities each receiving £1.2 million are the Great Ormond Street children's hospital fund, Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Royal National Institute for the Blind's Sunshine Fund for children. Andrew Young, a partner of solicitors Alison Wilkinson, who are acting for the donor, said the client had expressly sought anonymity. "All I can say is that it is a non-resident English person," he said, adding that the beneficiaries were the donor's favourite charities.

Stephen Lee, director of the Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers, said a total gift of almost £10 million from an individual in such circumstances was "very unusual". But he warned: "It raises all sorts of questions for smaller organisations, which could be knocked out of kilter by such enormous largesse."

Daltrey's nasty one in the eye

Nick Varley

THEY were derided as dinosaurs. But one of the stars at the giant Hyde Park rock concert in London nearly became the first Cyclops of rock. Roger Daltrey, lead singer of The Who, suffered a serious injury centimetres from his eye when he was struck by a microphone stand welded by Gary Glitter in rehearsals on Friday. The veteran rocker ap-

peared on stage at Saturday's concert sporting an eyepatch. But last night it emerged that Daltrey, aged 52, may have to undergo surgery on his fractured eye socket. A spokesman for the singer said: "The bone is damaged but not his eye lens." A Mastercard Masters of Music concert spokesman said: "Roger would like it known that the accident was totally his fault. He does not blame Gary Glitter in any way."

Whitehall tips for Howard on covering failure

Alan Travis

THE Whitehall papers on prison security seen by the Guardian provide astonishing evidence of advice from a senior civil servant to the Home Secretary on how to cover up to Parliament his failure to get the money needed to improve security. The documents say that Home Office ministers were already concerned that the response to Parliament on the Learmont report might be un-

duly delayed. The report of the inquiry into the Parkhurst breakout was published last October on the same day Michael Howard sacked the prisons director general, Derek Lewis. "Ministers have, however, told Parliament that there will be a report detailing actions which have been taken, or which are planned, to implement most of the recommendations 'in the spring'," the draft submission to Mr Howard says. "There is, however, a presentational problem with those items

which are indicated as requiring funding. Ministers would not wish to indicate that implementation of a significant security report was contingent on achieving adequate funding." The senior civil servant gives two options to state over this inconvenient fact that they had not the money to implement the security measures. The first is that Mr Howard gives Parliament a timetable which shows only those recommendations "on which firm action has been taken or

is planned (those not requiring funding)". Seventy-three of Learmont's 127 recommendations need new money. Fifty-four do not. The document says: "Ministers could state that the omitted recommendations were those which were still undergoing study." The second suggestion offered is not to publish a timetable outlining how Learmont will be dealt with. The document says: "If parliamentary questions were asked 'this omission would have to be justified', possibly by the complexity of the issues."

Improvements in security would cost £2.5 billion

A STAGGERING £2.5 billion is needed to pay for the security improvements recommended by the official inquiry, chaired by General Sir Joan Learmont, into the Parkhurst prison breakout, writes Alan Travis. The report, published last October, concluded that the prison service had to "now get the basics right for it can ill afford another episode which erodes its very foundations". The Whitehall documents make clear that the prison service has been sorting out which recommendations need "action, and which can be put on the backburner indefinitely". Among those which service chiefs regard as a priority are:

- Setting minimum physical

security standards for all prisons and applying them. This includes reviewing the system of security categories for prisoners to "remove dangerous anomalies". Low security jails with dormitories should have cells put in, stronger perimeter fences built and closed circuit TV introduced. Entrances to maximum security prisons should also have closed circuit TV. Cost: £1,153 million capital; £382 million in running costs over four years.

- Introducing a permanent record of prisoner movements in the six maximum-security dispersal jails and review intelligence information needs. Cost: £9 million capital; £10.9 million over four years.
- Improving training of prison officers. Cost: £5 million capital; £55.8 million over four years.
- Introducing more drug free wings and drug testing. Cost: £45m over four years.
- A purpose built high security prison costing £68.9 million to build and £1.7 million to run over four years.

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6 WORLD NEWS

Republican candidate 'not certain' whether nicotine is addictive

Bob Dole under a cloud after smoking blunder

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE Republican presidential candidate, Bob Dole, became engulfed in the politically lethal fumes of the tobacco debate yesterday when he claimed that one of the most respected figures in American medicine was "brainwashed" into believing nicotine is addictive.

Mr Dole attacked C. Everett Koop, who was the surgeon-general under Ronald Reagan and is widely seen as the Republican Party's favourite doctor. In an interview with NBC TV, Mr Dole defied the near-total scientific consensus that nicotine is addictive. "I'm not certain whether it's addictive," the candidate said. "It is to some people."

He said, sticking to his present strategy of framing every issue in terms of young people. Democrats have worked hard to place Mr Dole on the wrong side of the tobacco debate, constantly reminding voters of hefty party donations from the cigarette companies. Republicans received \$2.5 million in tobacco money between 1993 and 1995, compared with \$800,000 for Democrats.

Mr Clinton has effectively written off the support of tobacco growers in southern states, aiming instead for the majority of American voters who tell pollsters they want a candidate who's tough on smoking. He has unveiled initiatives aimed at reducing children's access to tobacco, and reminded voters that last month Mr Dole compared the dangers of underage smoking to the risks of drinking too much milk.

Huge power cut leaves Americans in the dark

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

MILLIONS of Americans in the western United States were plunged into chaos by a mysterious collapse in the electricity supply on Tuesday. Hospitals from Seattle to San Diego faced crises and in more than a dozen states and two Canadian provinces there was mayhem on the roads.

Without electricity for 36 hours, five million were affected by this week's cut, deprived of power for between two and four hours. There were no reports of looting or crime during the shutdown, partly because the problem was solved before nightfall. Experts were at a loss to explain the cause of the trouble. There was speculation that it might have been caused by a sudden overload in record heat — a surge in demand as customers switched on their air conditioning — and reports came in of a thunderstorm knocking down an electricity pylon.

What is known is that one of three key power-lines linking the Pacific north-west and California went down, forcing the extra load on to the other two. When they could not cope, the system apparently collapsed, bringing panic to parts of Arizona, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Texas, Nevada and Wyoming.

Brazil's X Files succumb to down-to-earth ghostbusters

Stan Lehman in Sao Paulo

DISEMBODIED voices speaking in unknown tongues. People vanishing into thin air. Telephones dialling themselves. It was enough to put people off work at the Sao Paulo city council building in Brazil. Councillor Paulo Roberto Faria Lima did not believe the ghost stories, but he changed his mind after a close encounter.

Missing atheists 'may have been murdered by zealots'

Three relatives 'flying to New York' have made no contact for nine months, writes Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

EVERY day that passes increases the suspicion that when America's leading atheist and her son and granddaughter disappeared last September they may have been murdered by a deranged Christian zealot. Madelyn Murray O'Hair, aged 77, founder of American Atheists Inc, provided the impetus for the 1993 supreme court decision banning prayer in US schools, and she became known as "the most hated woman in America."

Rumours have ranged from the bizarre — that Mrs O'Hair had conceived a child — to accusations of embezzlement and flight from the income tax authorities. Mr Tyson points out that a former Inland Revenue claim for \$1.5 million in unpaid taxes was "cooked up by a couple of zealots" but reduced to \$37,000 accumulated over 11 years.

where a multi-millionaire atheist left a large sum to the association. The legacy was opposed and the case has been in litigation since 1987. The three have not communicated with anyone since the last telephone call. None leaves a close relative however. Jon, aged 41, who managed the association, is unmarried and Robin, who edited the newsletter, is the estranged daughter of Bill, Jon's brother, who turned against the family and became a Christian.



Fans pay homage to Doors' singer

HUNDREDS of Doors fans gathered at the Père Lachaise cemetery yesterday to mark the 25th anniversary of the death of the band's singer, Jim Morrison, writes Alex Duval Smith in Paris.

were not born when he died from heart failure in Paris in 1971 — left flowers and poems at Morrison's grave. Police turned out in force, searching all who entered the cemetery — the resting place of some of France's most famous literary figures — and confiscat-

ing alcohol. Five years ago, 400 fans who had been refused access to the grave set fire to cars and stormed the cemetery's gates. Morrison, famous for classics like Light My Fire or When The Music's Over, was 27 when he died after coming to Paris to immerse

himself in the cult poetry of Arthur Rimbaud and recuperate from a drug-induced burn-out. In what has become a pilgrimage, fans are also flocking to two concerts in Paris by Patti Smith, a 1970s rock legend and Rimbaud fan.

Councillor fined for wooing voters with false promises

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

A COURT in Nancy, eastern France, found a regional councillor guilty yesterday of not living up to his electoral promises. Bernard Martin was fined 20,000 francs (£2,500) for promising that he could create 310 jobs in an area of Lorraine which has 20 per cent unemployment.

Swiss army compromise soothes ruffled feathers of pigeon fanciers

Foreign Staff

WHEN the Swiss army decided to end its carrier pigeon service it could hardly have foreseen the flap that would result. In the age of telecommunications, the plan announced last year to save over £300,000 by pensioning off the pigeon corps might have seemed uncontroversial. But pigeon fanciers managed to gather the 100,000 signatures necessary to force a referendum.

Pigeon breeders were particularly angered by the defence ministry's decision, because it takes time to train birds for night flying and Alpine manoeuvres.

Faced with this mobilisation of pigeon power, the government was forced to propose a compromise. Now a newly-created foundation for the pigeons will have the use of a military post near the capital, Bern. Pigeon fanciers will be able to use the facility for scientific research on the birds.

In addition to the 7,000 army-owned birds, there are another 23,000 privately-owned pigeons on standby in case of national emergency.

The Swiss army — a 550,000-strong reserve force — has not fought a war in four centuries.

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July 4 1996

RUSSIAN ELECTION: Soap opera viewers are urged to turn out as the ballot competes with a day off at the dacha

Yeltsin rounds up the stray voters

James Meek in Moscow

THE SOULFUL harmonies of two violins floated down the marble corridor leading to Pavletsky Station as Natasha and Lyudmila played a sad popular waltz by the Moldovan composer Doga Passerby...

I'm not going to vote for any of them any more," Natasha said. But it was the mass of passengers whose vote the Yeltsin camp was worried about...

The nearest place to vote. "I'm doing it voluntarily," he beamed, "not campaigning." At Klevsky station, a group of confused-looking martial arts experts handed out leaflets...

"Any change of power invariably involves bloodshed, and I have a 20-year-old son," she said. "I don't want that." The trains into Moscow were not bringing such good tidings for the president...

and for Yeltsin." Another pensioner, who did not give her name, said she had come 100 miles to vote for Mr Zyuganov...

Edinburgh electorate adds its weight against Communists

IF THINGS go wrong back home, Boris Yeltsin can always seek refuge in Scotland, writes Erlend Clouston in Edinburgh. At midday yesterday, the consul-general in Edinburgh, Gennady Lazutkin, was predicting a comfortable Russo-Scottish majority for the president...

Time to face up to money crisis

While inflation may be down, so too is production and pay is still owing, writes David Hearst

AT BEST, the presidential elections have put back for another year the prize of economic stabilisation which successive waves of free-market gurus have dangled before a weary and disillusioned people...



Pivotal poll... A policeman rests in St Petersburg during the second round of voting

Fog shrouds power swap

Despite Yeltsin's uncertain health, no law specifies how a handover occurs, writes David Hearst

BORIS Yeltsin has signed thousands of decrees in the five years of his presidency, but the transfer of his powers to a successor is not a subject he has been keen to address...

Advertisement for Nokia 1610 mobile phone. Features include: Up to 100 hrs standby-time, Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time, 45 name/number memory stored on SIM, Fast recharge-55 mins, 5 selectable ring tones, Weight 250g. Price: £4.99 inc. VAT. Includes a list of accessories and a 'Cellphones Direct' logo.

News in brief section. Includes: Families plead for hostages (Amnesty International), Massacre denied (Burundi), Opposition barred (Indonesia), China's flood toll (southern China), Militia arrests (Grenades, gas masks), 'Mad cow' protest (Livestock breeders), Holocaust pledge (Hungary), and 'Killer freed' (George Franklin).

Margaux Hemingway's death 'natural'. An autopsy performed on the body of the actress-model Margaux Hemingway, granddaughter of Ernest Hemingway, showed that she apparently died of natural causes, officials in Los Angeles said.

IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE Large Slide. As part of our commitment to product safety and continuous product improvement, our Large Slide (models 17544 and 07509) has been available in a modified version since May 18th 1996. It is important that all owners of large slides purchased since 1990 introduce the modification to their slides. A modification kit is available without charge. We strongly urge customers to contact Early Learning Centre to obtain this simple-to-fit modification as soon as possible.

I am yet again applying pesticide to my children's heads in a fruitless effort to de-louse them from the mutant headlice that have taken over Hackney. Suzanne Moore

10 OBITUARIES

Noel Bott

Pioneer of wave power

NOEL BOTT, who has pioneered the idea of using the renewable energy of the waves to replace fossil fuels...

when he saw it working at a site near Bergen, ignoring his age (78), the cold and icy showers...



A vanished world... a scene from Green's Yiddish On The Fiddle, starring Molly Picon

Joseph Green

Yiddisher poppa

JOSEPH GREEN, who has died aged 96, was the Billy Wilder of the Yiddish film...

The Dybbuk, the classic story of a girl cursed with the spirit of the dead man to whom she had been betrothed...



Green... good deeds

Briecia der Maman (A Letter to Mama) and Mamela were all made in Poland.

Green used real people in his films partly because he believed he could not produce Yiddish films with anyone else...

Major-General Tito Okello Soldier who ousted Amin



Okello... hot seat

WHEN Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni was campaigning for re-election earlier this year, he shocked many Ugandans by announcing that he intended to use Major-General Tito Okello, the military ruler he had overthrown...

officers complained that they were bearing the brunt of the casualties. In 1985, Obote reportedly told his officers: 'If you want to take over this chair you can bring your guns and take it... but it is very hot.'



Bott... bid to harness the sea for energy

Len Creed

The bookie's big winner

LEN CREED, who has died aged 79, will be remembered not least as the man who brought Viv Richards to England...

qua with his wife on holiday, he had a cutting from a cricket magazine which said that Colin Cowdrey had been impressed by a young Antiguan...

it entirely on his own initiative without the backing of Somerset, though the county later reimbursed his air fare.

he helped to roll the wicket. In his first match for Somerset, at Swansea, he made 81 and Brian Crane made the players line up to cheer him in Creed...

David Foot
Len Creed, bookmaker, born April 24, 1917; died June 3, 1996

Birthdays
René Arnoux, racing driver, 68; Lord Barber, former Conservative Chancellor, 76; Alec and Eric Besder, cricketers, 67; Irving Caesar, lyricist, 78; Richard Cloutier, chief executive, Daigety, 61; Janet Cohen, banker, broadcaster and writer, 66; Alan Davis, Goodall MP, government chief whip, 63; Lord Hankey, former diplomat, 91; Roy Henderson, baritone, 97; David Jensen, disc jockey, 46; Duncan Lamont, composer, 65; Henri Lecointe, tenor player, 33; Ute Lemper, singer and actress, 33; Gina Lollobrigida, actress, 69; Francis Maude, former Conservative minister, 43; Prince Michael of Kent, 54; Jenny Seagrove, actress, 58; Pam Shriver, tennis player, 34; Neil Simon, playwright, 69; Prof Sir Michael Stoker FRCS, pathologist, 78; King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV of Tonga, 78; Tony Van Den Bergh, writer and broadcaster, 80; Colin Welland, actor and playwright, 63; Lord Wyatt of Woodford, columnist, chairman, Horserace Totalisator Board, 78.

Death Notices
DAWSON - June 30th, peacefully in St James Hospital, London. Michael, dear husband of Sheila and well-loved father of many...



Jackdaw

Onion urge
ONIONS have, almost since prehistoric times, been attributed medicinal properties.

mixed with pine seeds. One exception is the recommendation of the Roman epigrammatist Martial: 'If your wife is old and your member is exhausted, eat onions in plenty.'

consecutive days except by old and cold-tempered men. For those who thought onion breath the ultimate turn-off, see Johan's Guide to Aphrodisiacs at www.bart.nl/~sante/aphrodite/aphrodite.htm

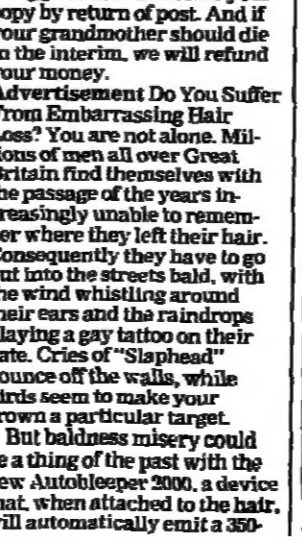
for transportation: Automotive television, the Auto Channel, Speedvision, the Air & Space Network, Wingspan, and Trax.

Tried & Tested
Advertisement Teach Your Grandmother to Suck Eggs. Everybody knows the feeling when at a meeting of local grandmothers yours is the only one unable to suck eggs. But no longer do you have to suffer this embarrassment!

decibel warning signal when the front door is opened, enabling the user to easily track down the source of the sound and consequently the hair.

Tactical tips
1. NEVER trust anyone not to dish the dirt - chaplains, doctors, nurses or even friends. Remember barracks are just one big slumber party and these boys are such terrible gossips when they get together.

attitude... army game



Giggie and Ginola might give the game away. Cottage queens beware. Military Police carry out camera surveillance operations of toilets and cruising grounds near army bases.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@gastralian.co.uk; fax 0171-715 4968. Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

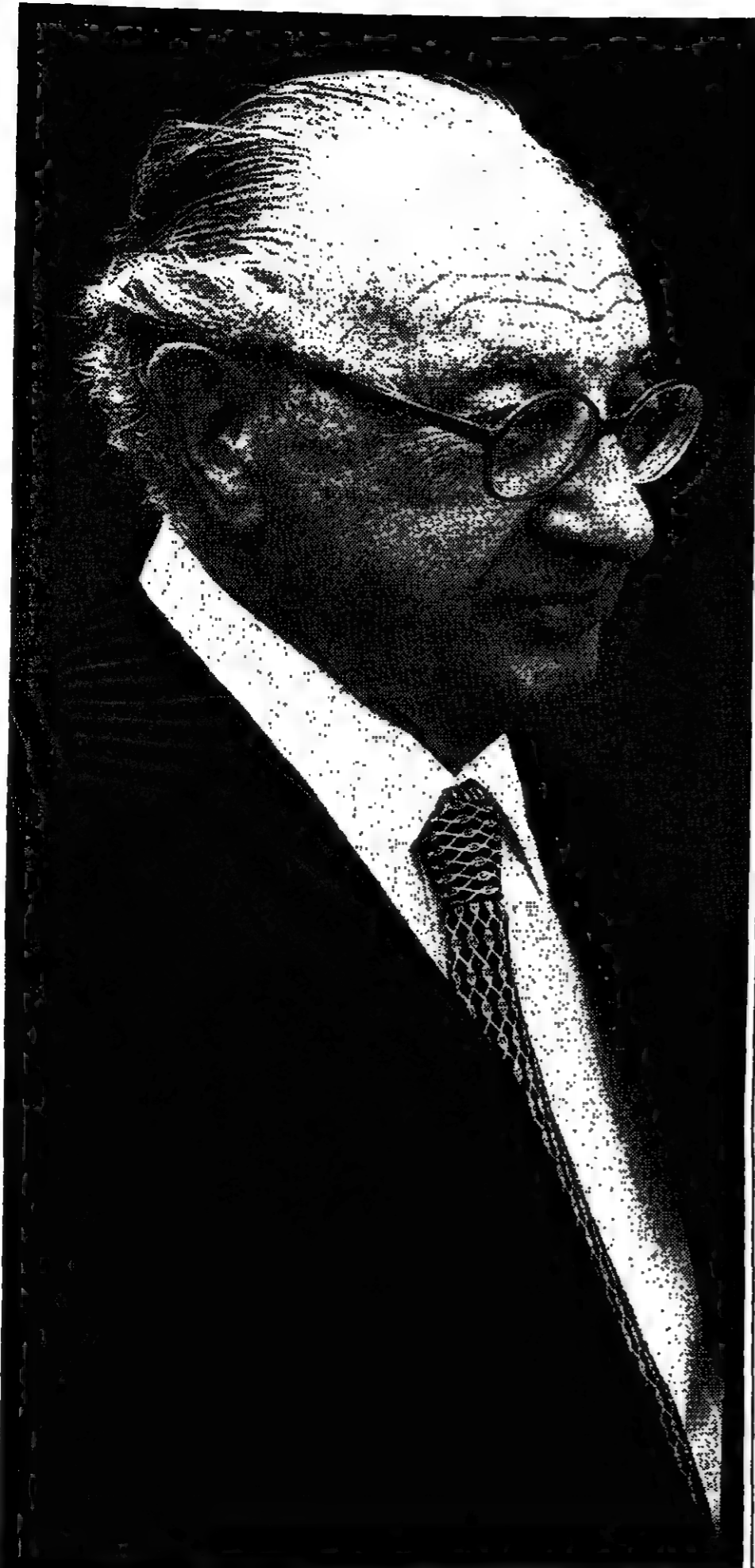
Advertisement for attitude... army game

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Telephone: 0171-239-9610
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السنة الخامسة

Finance Guardian

Weinstock's £1bn finale



Sparkling farewell... Lord Weinstock leaves record GEC profits. PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID BILLYE

LORD Weinstock yesterday delivered record profits and a booming order book plus a surprisingly high dividend increase as his farewell after 23 years in charge of electrical and electronics group GEC. He will become chairman emeritus after handing over as managing director in September to former Rover and Lucas chief executive George Simpson.

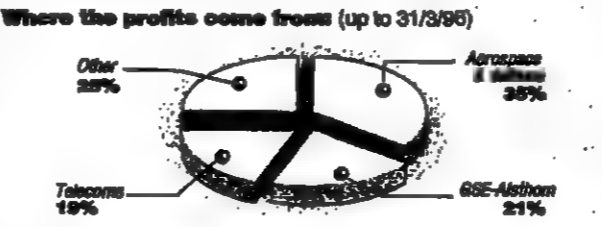
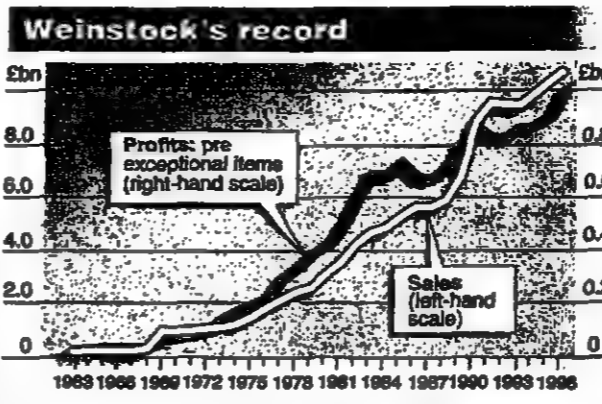
GEC chairman Lord Plessey said yesterday: "His experience in industry is unrivalled and his 23-year record of achievement as managing director speaks for itself. Mr Simpson will enjoy the full support of the board and his predecessor as he assumes what I regard as the most important position in British industry."

Profits broke the £1 billion barrier for the first time, almost £100 million higher than last year, before deducting a £48 million provision for contract disputes, believed to be mainly concerned with European Fighter

Aircraft development. The increase came entirely from GEC's three main businesses, and especially GEC-Marconi aerospace and defence electronics operations. The division was boosted last year by the acquisition of warship yard VSEL, which added £60 million of the £94 million increase.

The telecoms joint venture with Siemens of Germany produced £10 million extra profit, while profits at power joint venture GEC-Alsthom rose £20 million to £177 million. Smaller businesses continued to disappoint as the Hotpoint and Creden divisions saw profits fall to £11 million.

Lord Weinstock's legendary cash mountain shrunk slightly, due mainly to the VSEL acquisition. But GEC still had more than £1.1 billion in the bank at year-end, plus a further £1.5 billion in the joint ventures. Investors were cheered by the dividend increase and the share price closed up 12p at 363p, a little below April's record 378.5p.



Regulators link up to plug gaps

FOR some time financial regulators have been under pressure of events to cooperate not just across national boundaries but also across industry divides. Market globalisation and banks which own securities houses, for example, have forced the great and the good within both the banking and securities industries to ponder ways of working together effectively. There have been a number of occasions - BCCI and Barings, for instance - which have exposed the gaps in the framework.

In that sense yesterday's announcement that the deputy governor of the Bank of England, Howard Davies, will join the Securities and Investments Board while SIB's chairman, Sir Andrew Large, will be given a seat on the Board of Banking Supervision is no more than a formal acknowledgement of the developing trend towards closer cooperation. The recent, but less widely publicised, formation of a small team drawing on staff from the SIB, the Securities and Futures Association and the Stock Exchange, aimed at providing early warnings of suspected market abuse, is another example of similar thinking.

None-the-less the seniority of those involved in the cross appointments announced yesterday underline the importance, which the UK authorities attach to strengthening the links between those responsible for different areas of the financial services industry. According to Sir Andrew, however, it is not just the links between regulators which need strengthening. SIB is clearly frustrated about the limits on regulators' powers to investigate organisations or individuals suspected of abusing the markets they supervise (either through manipulation or insider dealing) but which are not authorised by the appropriate regulatory authority. Unauthorised firms or individuals fall within the remit of the criminal system, rather than the regulators.

It is clear Sir Andrew would like that to change, not by decriminalising market abuse, but by giving the regulators civil powers to pursue those who currently fall outside its scope. Such a move would have attractions. The burden of proof would be likely to be less than that required for a successful criminal prosecution. The UK authorities have experience enough of the difficulties of presenting complex cases of alleged financial irregularity. There is also an appealing logic in giving those charged with supervising markets the powers to call to account all those who might seek to abuse those same markets.

THE European Commission's insistence on its right to vet the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines, along with five other links between US and European carriers is clearly part of a turf war. The question is: which bit of turf?

Quick £2m for mines chief

RICHARD BUDGE, chief executive of RJB Mining, the group which now owns most of Britain's coal mines - yesterday scooped more than £2 million when he sold a tenth of his stake in the group as part of a share buy-back scheme. Mr Budge, who last year earned more than £900,000, sold 390,000 shares at 51p each. Two years ago the company paid £215 million for the bulk of British Coal. The disclosure came as RJB announced it was buying back 17.12 million of its shares - 10 per cent of the group's share capital - in a move costing it £85 million. The buy-back was immediately attacked by Labour's Shadow Energy Minister, John Battie, who said the scheme was proof that the Government had "undermined" Britain's coal industry. "This is further proof that the Conservatives have been motivated by a desperate attempt to get their hands on a short-term cash fix, whilst the interests of the taxpayer have been relegated to a distant afterthought," he said. RJB bought all of British Coal's deep-mined and open-cast assets for £215 million when the industry was privatised two years ago. However, the company's cash flow since then has been far better than anticipated and yesterday it announced it had repaid all outstanding debts to its bankers.

Utilities offer fresh impetus to top pay bonanza

CHRIS BERRIE, Business Correspondent

THE pay bonanza in the utilities took on some fresh momentum yesterday when two companies disclosed huge rises for directors and began the process of setting up new executive bonus schemes.

The water and electricity company Hyder has boosted the basic salary of its chief executive, Graham Hawker, by 89 per cent to £225,000, while finance director Paul Twamley received a 47 per cent rise to £150,000.

Hyder, formerly Welsh Water, bought South Wales Electricity last year to become the second utility to combine water and power services. A spokesman admitted that pay rises for staff had been pegged between 3 and 4 per cent, but said the increase in directors' pay was in line with extra responsibility following the Swansea takeover.

Last year Mr Hawker and Mr Twamley received hefty bonuses of close to the theoretical maximum of 40 per cent. Coupled with other perks, Mr Hawker's and Mr Twamley's total remuneration was £195,000 and £155,000 respectively.

Group engineering services director Stuart Doughty was paid £185,000.

Chairman Iain Evans will be paid £190,000 when he steps down to become non-executive this summer. Last year, as executive chairman, he was paid £124,000 in salary and perks.

Hyder's annual report revealed that it was seeking to replace executive share options with a new long term performance plan potentially worth a further 50 per cent of basic salary in free shares.

Bonuses, worth 40 per cent of salary and last year amounting to £254,000 shared by six directors, will be retained. Several board members exercised substantial tranches of options on shares last year.

At Thames Water, shareholders will be told that chairman Sir Robert Clarke has received a 52 per cent pay rise, to £223,866, for assuming executive responsibilities on the resignation of the group chief executive, Mike Hoffman, who collected £875,000 before his departure.

Mr Hoffman quit when Thames announced its withdrawal from overseas operations at a cost of £67 million earlier this year.

He was paid £984,000 as compensation, exercised share options worth £160,000, and received £264,000 in his last year in office. The company also topped up funding for his pension at a cost of £71,000.

US pick-up hits rate cut hopes

MARK TRAN IN NEW YORK AND HOWARD THOMAS

HOPES of further worldwide interest rate cuts faded yesterday amid fresh signs of strength in the US economy and a revival of fortunes in German industry.

City analysts said yesterday's monthly meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, had ended with a decision to leave base rates at 5.75 per cent.

After last month's surprise quarter-point cut, Mr Clarke is expected to keep his powder dry for a few months - especially given renewed buoyancy in the housing market, a busier high street and tentative signs that manufacturing is emerging from the doldrums.

Economists said the buoyancy of key export markets could provide another boost to firms later in the year, reducing pressure for more monetary easing.

Figures released yesterday pointed to a strong pick-up in North America and Germany - both big markets for British goods. Orders to US factories jumped 1.9 per cent in May, the third successive monthly gain - and the biggest in nine months. Meanwhile new home sales surged by 7.5 per cent in May, to the highest level for a decade.

In Germany, brisk manufacturing activity pushed industrial output up by 1 per cent, according to the economics ministry. The jump was also a sign of a genuine recovery. "It's a genuine turnaround," he said. Analysts said the figures widened the odds on a cut in German rates when the Bundesbank meets next week.

Despite the buoyant US data, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, brushed off inflation fears and left US borrowing rates unchanged at 5.25 per cent. Wall Street pundits said the next move in American rates was likely to be up, pointing to new evidence of a housing-led recovery. David Wynn, an economist at DRJ McGraw Hill, said: "The Fed is going to tighten. The only question is when."

After a modest 2.3 per cent annualised rate of growth in the first quarter of 1996, the economy is expected to surge at a 4 per cent rate in the second quarter. Financial markets are now focusing on the latest jobs report, due out tomorrow.

Diamond sales break class barrier

DAN ATKINSON

DIAMOND sales soared more than 10 per cent in Britain during the first three months of this year, supporting suggestions that the feel-good factor has finally returned.

For the first time since the onset of the recession, the sales seem to be spreading down the social scale from the super-rich to ordinary working people.

The huge De Beers company, which markets more than 80 per cent of the world's diamonds, said yesterday all major markets other than Germany had shown strong growth so far this year. Five per cent increases in local currency terms were seen in the US, Japan and Korea, with an 8 per cent rise in France.

But UK sales showed a 10 per cent-plus increase during the first quarter, with strong demand for better-quality stones.

De Beers's marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation (CSO), has responded to the sales rise with a 3 per cent increase for rough gemstones. This is an average figure, and disguises the fact that, for diamonds weighing more than one carat (0.2 gram), the rise will be 7 per cent.

Last November, De Beers froze the prices of cheaper stones at roughly 1993 levels, while jacking up the cost of stones weighing two carats or more by 5 per cent. It is significant that the CSO is now including stones down to one carat in its high-price-rise category, whereas November's move showed De Beers cashing in on strong demand from the world's super-rich, yesterday's action seems to show that wealth is finally starting to "trickle down" to the social ladder.

Luxury goods are traditionally among the last products to emerge from recession. Between March 1990, when prices were increased 5.5 per cent, and February 1993, when they rose just 1.5 per cent, De Beers sat out the recession with no increases at all.

In July last year, the CSO "rebalanced" its price list to reflect weaker demand for cheaper stones and stronger demand for heavier diamonds. This exacerbated tensions with the world's biggest diamond mine, Argyle, in Australia, which despite its size produces mainly smaller diamonds. Argyle walked out of the CSO last month.

Yesterday's price rises indicate renewed confidence in the industry following the deal cut in February between the CSO and Russia, the world's second-largest producer.

Australia 1.9175	France 1.7850	Italy 2.339	Singapore 2.1450
Austria 16.26	Germany 2.2025	Japan 164.575	South Africa 4.54
Belgium 47.25	Greece 985.20	Netherlands 2.5975	Spain 163.20
Canada 2.0725	Hong Kong 11.74	New Zealand 2.21	Sweden 10.1
Cyprus 8.7000	India 54.25	Norway 8.8750	Switzerland 1.825
Denmark 8.5150	Ireland 0.9445	Portugal 238.00	Turkey 121.643
Finland 7.1850	Israel 4.98	Saudi Arabia 5.80	USA 1.52

Supplied by Midland Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).



Rough landing... Jim Naylor, the stroke of the Sons of the Thames, is wheeled away after suffering an asthma attack at the end of a narrow Britannia defeat

Eton boats on song as Canford heed wake-up call and Harrison finds the right beat

Christopher Dodd at Henley

ETON lit up the Royal Regatta yesterday when they rowed the Calcuttians from the Orange Coast who had led the Temple event for most of the way. Their half-length victory came after a battle with cross winds which gave plenty of problems to the coxes and even more to the coxless boats in the Wyfold and the Diamond Sculls.

There was also an ill wind blowing in the Thames Cup, where the Germans from Essen-Kupferdorn beat Upper Thames. The visitors are the German student champions, which brought a protest afterwards from Upper Thames as the cup is barred to student crews this year. The umpire disallowed the appeal and the stewards said there was no objection to students rowing for club crews.

All the selected (seeded) crews survived in the Princess Elizabeth, but the unselected Canford may have turned out to be the sleeper. In a tight race with King's Canterbury they clocked 6min 48sec, the only crew to get under 7min before the tea break, to win by a length. Eton entered their second boat and knocked the first boat of their old rivals Radley out by a length and a quarter.

The local school Stipule, coxed in fine voice by Danny Harrison, whose father is the skipper, set up a popular victory over Westminster. In the first round of the Diamond Sculls, the former main-

line Duncan Nicol of Upper Thames narrowly beat the 17-year-old Hungarian Peter Ujhelyi, who has been sponsored to attend Bedford Modern School by his country's rowing federation. Ujhelyi could have made a fatal mistake in booking a fight home tomorrow before the third round. He made one mistake in the race, which was to leave his sprint finish too late, but he showed he has a great future.

Charnwood Forest ducks the Eclipse

Chris Hawkins

SHAAMIT is not among the 54 entries made yesterday for the Doncaster St Leger on September 14, confirming the low esteem in which the season's final Classic is now held.

The last Epsom Derby winner to run at Doncaster was Reference Point, who had no trouble in adding to his laurels when trotting up on Town Moor in 1987. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that Shaamit's name is missing. The Leger distance of a mile and three-quarters might be thought to be stretching things for him, although his breeding on the dam's side is very similar to Reference Point, who had Habitat as his maternal grandsire.

While conceding that connections of Shaamit would not be attracted by the Leger, disquiet seems to be growing about whether the colt will again be seen on a racecourse.

The poor performance of those behind him at Epsom should make not a jot of difference to his future. To Prior d'Assac, who should give Shaamit the chance to prove his worth—at the moment there is not enough evidence to put a proper value on him.

Charnwood Forest has become the latest Eclipse Stakes absentee and Saturday's race, which at one time looked like being a cracking affair, is beginning to lose some of its gloss. The presence of Pentire is perhaps scaring off the opposition and Godolphin have decided not to pit Charnwood Forest against him in what would have been their colt's first attempt at a mile and a quarter. The York International is now seen as a more suitable race for the impressive Queen Anne winner.

Yarmouth runners and riders with form

Table listing horse racing results and form for Yarmouth. Includes columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and time. Races include 2.00 Foreway Lass, 2.30 Hippo, 2.40 Mistletoe, 2.50 Sweeney, 3.00 Priority Affair.

Catterick

Table listing horse racing results and form for Catterick. Includes columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and time. Races include 2.15 Abbotston Agate, 2.45 Pincrocks, 2.55 Rye, 3.05 Rye.

Haydock tonight

Table listing horse racing results and form for Haydock tonight. Includes columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and time. Races include 6.50 GUYOL APPOINTMENT, 7.20 SCARLA 4-GIRRES, 7.50 SCARLA 4-GIRRES.

Ayr tonight

Table listing horse racing results and form for Ayr tonight. Includes columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and time. Races include 6.35 HEP CANTON, 7.05 SCARLA 4-GIRRES, 7.35 SCARLA 4-GIRRES.

Results

Table listing horse racing results for various tracks including Catterick, Haydock, and Ayr. Includes columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and time.

Market Review

Table listing market review for various horse racing events. Includes columns for race number, horse name, jockey, and time.

4.00 CATFIELD MAIDEN STAKES

Table listing horse racing results for Catfield Maiden Stakes. Includes columns for horse name, jockey, and time.

4.30 HAPPELSTON MAIDEN STAKES

Table listing horse racing results for Happelston Maiden Stakes. Includes columns for horse name, jockey, and time.

4.40 HAYDOCK COMMERCIALS

Table listing horse racing results for Haydock Commercial. Includes columns for horse name, jockey, and time.

4.50 HAYDOCK COMMERCIALS

Table listing horse racing results for Haydock Commercial. Includes columns for horse name, jockey, and time.

5.00 HAYDOCK COMMERCIALS

Table listing horse racing results for Haydock Commercial. Includes columns for horse name, jockey, and time.

5.10 HAYDOCK COMMERCIALS

Table listing horse racing results for Haydock Commercial. Includes columns for horse name, jockey, and time.

5.20 HAYDOCK COMMERCIALS

Table listing horse racing results for Haydock Commercial. Includes columns for horse name, jockey, and time.

5.30 HAYDOCK COMMERCIALS

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5.50 HAYDOCK COMMERCIALS

Table listing horse racing results for Haydock Commercial. Includes columns for horse name, jockey, and time.

6.00 HAYDOCK COMMERCIALS

Table listing horse racing results for Haydock Commercial. Includes columns for horse name, jockey, and time.

6.10 HAYDOCK COMMERCIALS

Table listing horse racing results for Haydock Commercial. Includes columns for horse name, jockey, and time.

14 SPORTS NEWS

Soccer

Saints turn to Souness steel

Russell Thomas

THE TIDE of managerial change swept Graeme Souness back into British football yesterday when Southampton entrusted a difficult Premiership future to the Scot's brand of leadership.

Souness, installed in time for a hastily convened midday press conference at The Dell, claimed he was returning a wiser and calmer manager — "I've mellowed a lot" — but Southampton's staff can brace themselves for a demanding style of management.

In return for a three-year contract worth \$500,000, Souness will demand that the players perform to their potential. "That is one of the qualities I will be bringing to this club — trying to get the best out of the people who are here."



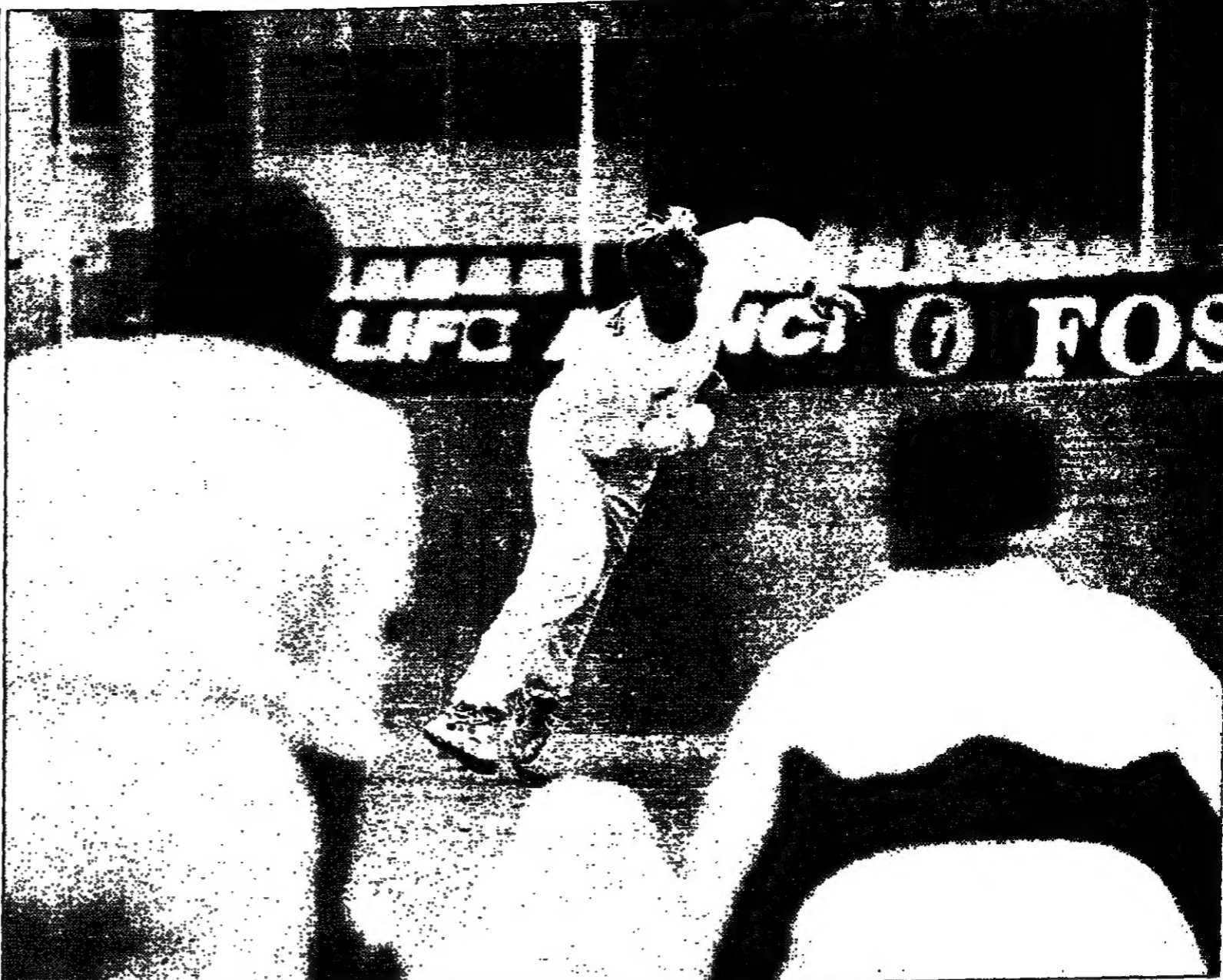
Souness... 'I've mellowed' 'Le Tissier is the most talented footballer in Britain and if he is honest he knows he could do more than he did last season'

Souness conceded that Southampton was an unlikely port of call, even though he had expressed an interest in a new start in English football after being sacked after one season in Turkey with Galatasaray.

on the last day of the season. But Souness was rapidly persuaded by the club's director of football Lawrie McMenemy. "It took me only five minutes in Lawrie's company to convince me about taking the job. He is passionate about the game, and so am I."

McMenemy returned the compliment. "Graeme was the first and only man we interviewed for the job. The players report back for training on Monday and we felt it was important to appoint someone who everyone respects — players and fans alike."

Souness played down the inequality of spending power in the Premiership; nevertheless this will be an intriguing test of his buying acumen. After his much-criticised \$20 million wheeler-dealing at Liverpool, he will have an initial £3 million to spend at Southampton.



Flick of the wrist... Ian Salisbury goes through his paces at Trent Bridge before being omitted from England's team

Atherton plays forward to leggie

Mike Selvey at Trent Bridge on why Ian Salisbury was deemed surplus to requirements for the third Test against India starting today

THE Hyde Park old farts concert last weekend was probably not the place for fresh-faced young Sussex lads who do not list nostalgia trips in their Who's Who recreation entry, so it is unlikely that Ian Salisbury was there to hear whether or not Bob Dylan chanted Subterranean Homesick Blues down his nasal passages.

Test matches in four years, taking just 16 wickets: Narendra Hirwani, India's second-string leggie, managed as many on his debut. The wickets have cost Salisbury almost 60 runs apiece, which just about qualifies him to polish Shane Warne's stepping-out shoes.

encouragement to strive for betterment. Finger-spinners, as Mike Atherton pointed out yesterday, have not generally won Test matches in recent years. If anyone knows the pace men from their perch, it is the wrists twiddlers: Warne, Kumble, Mushtaq, young Adams, and before that the likes of Abdul Qadir and Hirwani.

days last year and the likelihood was that we were only ever going to play one spinner. Min Patel was first choice at the start of the series and now it's up to him to do well and try and stay in the side. But with Salisbury, I think it is important that he knows he's our leg-spinner over the medium to long term and we are looking to him to be part of the scene.

the bowler who bats a bit, Mark Ealham. Atherton is aware of the dangers of trying to sit on a lead, and will not be content with just trying to close the match down. But with England one up and requiring only a draw, I think he will still seem the likeliest option.

Chelsea chase Di Matteo as Leeds lasso Bowyer

Mark Reading

CHELSEA are attempting to flout their own traditions by snapping up a Serie A player under the age of 20.

The Blues have set their sights on Roberto Di Matteo, who played for Italy in the European Championship. Yesterday Chelsea's managing director Colin Hutchinson travelled to Rome to talk terms with the Lazio midfielder.

Di Matteo, 26, would join the recent signing Gianluca Vialli (31) and last year's capture and now player-manager Ruud Geul (38) among the Italian league old boys at Stamford Bridge.

interesting trip and Di Matteo is a very switched-on guy. Robust but skilful, Di Matteo played in Italy's first and last games in Euro 96, but was one of the five players disastrously left out for the intervening defeat by the Czech Republic.

Meanwhile Chelsea sealed the purchase yesterday of France's Frank Leboeuf for a club record £2.5 million from Strasbourg. "I want to win everything at Chelsea because I've never won anything in France," the defender said.

Italy's premature exit from Euro 96 has dropped them from third to fifth in the latest Fifa rankings, while England's domestic heroics have catapulted them 11 places to 13th. Brazil remain top and Germany second.

Charlton midfielder Lee Bowyer. The Elland Road club, which was taken over in a £20 million deal by the Caspian group this week, will pay £2.6 million for the England Under-21 player. The fee breaks the British record of £2.5 million for a teenager that took John Harrison from Luton to Arsenal in 1995.

"I decided to come to Leeds because I thought I would learn more here from the manager, the players, the coach and all the facilities they have," Bowyer said.

His Under-21 team-mate Ben Thatcher has signed for Wimbledon from Millwall for about £2 million. "He's an uncut diamond, but we'll turn him into a polished gem," promised their owner Sam Hammam.

Poborsky United bound

Ian Ross on the Czech midfielder's decision to join the Double winners in £3.6 million deal

KAREL POBORSKY last night agreed to join Manchester United. The £3.6 million transfer of the gifted Czech Republic midfielder from Slavia Prague will be formally completed in Switzerland at the weekend.

After a series of outstanding performances in the European Championship finals, the 24-year-old Poborsky chose Manchester United ahead of a number of other clubs, including Lazio.

Gunnar Solskjaer, is still involved in negotiations with the Double winners about a proposed £1.6 million move to Old Trafford. Fergusson, on holiday in Malta, told reporters: "We have made another inquiry. The ball is firmly in Blackburn's court."

Blackburn's chairman Robert Carr said: "We have had an inquiry from Manchester United but have told them that Alan Shearer is simply not for sale."

Shearer, who will be 26 next month, has also spoken saying: "My relationship with Jack Walker is as strong as it always has been. He has personally telephoned me to say there had been interest from other clubs but that he has rejected their inquiries."

Paul Bodin has joined Reading on a free transfer. The 32-year-old Welsh international defender was let go by Swindon Town in May after helping Steve McMahon's team win the Second Division title.

Fluent Anwar takes early Shine off

David Foot at Taunton

FIFTY years ago this month the Indians came here and were bowled out before lunch for 64. It was to be an historic innings win by the county against the first Test finest and is still regularly quoted by those that say they were there.

Yesterday, when Pakistan arrived, the ball did not swing as once it did for Bill Andrews (in a pair of borrowed boots) and Bertie Buse. Instead, there was consummate batting from Saeed Anwar in particular.

The opener had come across the bridge from Pontypriid, where on Sunday he scored an undefeated double hundred. Against Somerset, after another exquisite demonstration of fluent batsmanship, aesthetically pleasing in the best Asian tradition, he was eventually bowled for 130

as he went for an exaggerated drive. Cosy in his long-sleeved sweater, overtly hungry for runs, the left-hander repeatedly penetrated the populated off-side field or rolled those dextrous wrists for perfectly executed clips wide of mid-wicket.

The miscellany of good-looking strokes compensated for any rain delay. Anwar's century had come in under three hours with his least-assisted boundary, one of 21 in total. The stand of 187 with Asif Mujtaba had offset the loss of two early wickets, both to Kevin Shine.

Pakistan, put in by Somerset, suffered an unlikely reverse in the eventful opening over, during which Shine bowled two wides before having Anwar caught at the wicket. With 34 runs off the first four overs, Pakistan had seemed to be treating an under-strength county attack

with minimal respect. Caddick, Rose and Hayhurst were all missing with minor injuries. That meant a recall for Andre van Troost, the beanpole quickie, left out after the opening championship match of the season.

Shane Lee got the new ball ahead of him, though reward did not come till late afternoon. Then the Australian took out Anwar's off stump, had a slightly casual Inzam-ul-Haq well held by Turner and put an end to Asif Mujtaba's typically conscientious half-century.

Eight thousand spectators saw the Indians in 1946; you could count them more easily in hundreds yesterday, a reflection on the changing attitudes and bad weather rather than any slight to the attractive opposition. Play ended on 253 for five.

Scoreboard

BRITANNIA ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of four, today 11.0)

Table with columns for teams (Sussex v Hampshire, Warwickshire v Somerset, etc.) and scores for batsmen and bowlers.

TOUR MATCHES (First day of three, today 11.0)

Table with columns for teams (Somerset v Pakistanis, Lancashire v Warwickshire, etc.) and scores for batsmen and bowlers.

NO PLAY, RAIN

VARIOUS MATCHES (Second day of three, today 11.0)

STARTING TODAY (11.0)

Large vertical advertisement for 'Cricket' magazine, featuring the title 'Cricket' and various promotional text and numbers.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.

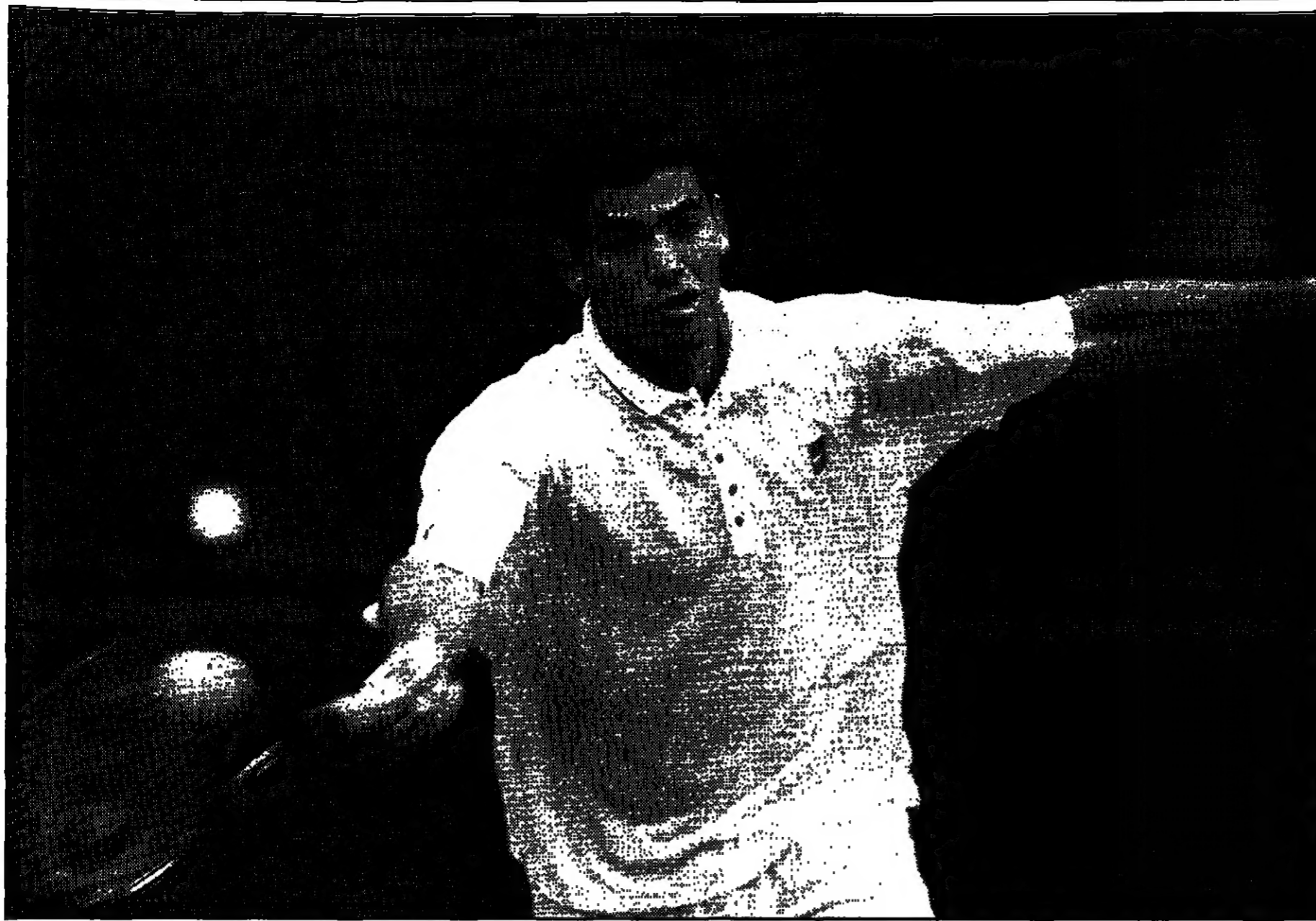
Eton on song at Henley, page 13

Saintly Souness returns, page 14

Salisbury returns untested, page 14

Christie hopes take dive, page 15

SportsGuardian



Pistol misfires ... Pete Sampras gets to grips with a forehand volley yesterday but the champion lost the first two sets to Richard Krajicek before rain called a halt

Sampras fights for survival

Stephen Bierley on a remarkable day that left two of the few remaining top guns teetering on the brink

PETE SAMPRAS, the champion for the past three years and an overwhelming favourite for a fourth title, was fighting desperately to cling on to his Wimbledon crown when rain brought an end to play on the Centre Court last night. Remarkably tennis continued on the No. 1 court, where the No. 4 seed Goran Ivanisevic found himself serving to save the match against the unseeded German Jason Stoltenberg. This the Croatian achieved, winning a third-set tie-break before the two players were ushered off. Stoltenberg leads 6-3, 7-6, 6-7.

Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands, one of the biggest servers on the circuit, has two sets of daylight between him and Sampras in a quarter-final match that began shortly after 12.30pm. It was still going strong (which is more than can be said for the American) at the close. Play having been severely disrupted by rain. Tim Henman, who was due on court after this match, spent the day twiddling his thumbs. He will return this morning, first on at 11 o'clock, assuming the weather relents. If Sampras and Ivanisevic go out then God may be seen by many to be British and Henman could find himself sharing a statue with Fred Perry, the last home winner of the men's title in 1936.

Should Sampras lose today, after 25 consecutive wins on Wimbledon grass, then he will look back at the third game of the first set against Krajicek with particular ruefulness. The American was clearly determined to impose himself on the Dutchman's serve at the earliest opportunity and had five break points in a game of nine deuces in the third game. Yet each time Krajicek managed to conjure up a saving shot, sometimes by sleight of hand, sometimes with a resounding blow. This single game lasted well over 10 minutes. Sampras managed one more serve of his own and then, at 2-2, the rain came bucketing down.

Three hours and 40 minutes later they tried again and the significance of those missed breaks took on a sharper focus. With Krajicek holding his serve to 6-4 Sampras was dramatically broken to love. Not so much broken as torn limb from limb. The Dutchman unleashed forehand and backhand forehand of quite extraordinary venom leaving Sampras blinking with disbelief. These two had never met before in a Grand Slam event, although in four previous meetings Krajicek had won twice. "I knew he would be coming along one day at Wimbledon," said Sampras, as if hinting at some strange foreboding. Play was stopped again in the second set and when it resumed Sampras was again in trouble with a break point against his serve in the 12th game. A mishit backhand by

the No.1 seed clipped the baseline to save him, but this was only to delay his loss of the set. Prior to yesterday Krajicek's tie-break record was abysmal; on this occasion he took immediate and compulsive control, speeding to a 5-0 lead. Sampras rallied briefly but a final backhand pass saw the Dutchman home in the second set, if not exactly dry. It was 1-1 in the third set when Centre Court's struggle with the elements finally ended. One of the men moving the huge tarpaulin cover was hit on the back of the head and had to be carried off. This unfortunate accident allowed further rain to get on the court so at just after 6pm play was abandoned, no doubt to the relief of Sampras. Neither the sight of Sampras in terrible trouble, nor an impromptu rain-break concert by Sir Cliff Richard (terrible to some), could disguise the feelings of frustration.

Why America prefers to stay off track



Ian Katz

AMERICA has fallen in love with Michael Johnson. His perfect musculature ripples across the cover of every glossy Olympic supplement, he has been a guest on all the morning television shows and he is the star of a new government-funded anti-drug advertising campaign. The sprinter's popularity is scarcely surprising in the wake of his world record-shattering 200 metres at the US Olympic trials last month. Americans love a good superlative and Johnson has snared a fine one. Who could fall to be excited by the idea of an American breaking the oldest record in athletics?

Throughout the build up to the Games, Sheryl Swoops, the lie-some heroine of the US women's basketball team, has received twice the coverage devoted to any track star bearing Johnson or Lewis. Even Johnson has barely emerged from the shadow of Dream Team III, the Olympic basketball side that does not even include the NBA's two best players. Everyone involved in the sport admits that athletics is in big trouble in America. The country no longer hosts a major international event. When it tries, the stands are empty. According to Brad Hunt, the agent who represents several top US athletes including Johnson, the sport has come "almost to the stage of catastrophe". It is hard to see why. On the face of it athletics has all the ingredients to make it an American favourite: endless statistics; convenient breaks for TV advertising and an abundance of home-grown international stars. Sure there are a few races that go on too long and a handful of events, shot put for instance, that won't sell. But they can easily be edited into obscurity.

What is surprising is that the athlete's celebrity in his own homeland has been so long in coming. Long after the French were referring to him as *Magique*, Johnson could walk through his home town of Dallas without fear of being recognised. Reserve line-backers for the Dallas Cowboys were more likely to be stopped for autographs. Fundists have placed the blame on his bland personality and apparent distaste for showmanship. He was, after all, the man who celebrated victories in the 200m and 400m at the world championships in Gothenburg with a tour of the Volvo factory.

MOST critics blame USA Track and Field, the sport's governing body, for failing to mount the kind of sassy marketing campaigns that have turned basketball into a multi-billion dollar cash machine and even sold American football, a game so ridiculous that no other nation has bothered to learn its rules. If athletics had cool adverts and a catchy slogan like basketball's "I Love this Game", they say, lycra bodysuits would be flying off the shelves as quickly as Michael Jordan vests.

In truth, however, the failure to embrace Johnson reflects America's profoundly paradoxical relationship with athletics. On one hand the US dominates much of the sport, producing a seemingly endless stream of top-class sprinters and supremely gifted all-rounders. On the other, most Americans care who ran the fastest 100m this year about as much as who is relegated from the English Second Division.

The vanishing profile of athletics was powerfully underlined by the ticket requests received for the Atlanta Olympics. The most sought-after seats were for the opening and closing ceremonies, the baseball and basketball finals and some gymnastics events. More people applied to see the women's floor-exercise final than the 100m, the blue-ribbon event in any other country. The second-class status of athletics has been visible

Fate stalks SW19 this year. Both Henman and Martin will wrap up believing a place in Sunday's final is theirs.

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BBC hit as Fifa sells off World Cup for £1.5bn

Neil Robinson

THE BBC and ITV face a huge rise in the cost of television rights to future soccer World Cups after Fifa yesterday broke with long tradition by denying Europe's terrestrial broadcasters automatic coverage of tournaments after 1998.

Soccer's governing body announced a £1.46 billion deal for the 2002 and 2006 World Cups with the Bavarian media mogul Leo Kirch and the Swiss-based marketing agency ISL, who will auction the rights off to individual broadcasters.

The decision to end the current agreement with the European Broadcasting Union, the umbrella body which bid £1.1 billion, ends more than 25 years of guaranteed access for public-service channels.

Theoretically the BBC and

ITV may now be denied coverage after France in 1998. Although this is unlikely there will be a price to pay.

Fifa retains ownership of the rights and has a veto over which individual broadcasters are sold the rights to the world's biggest sporting event. It has previously shied away from satellite stations in order to maximise audiences for sponsors.

"We want to know that the best coverage is done because football should be accessible to everyone - which means that in Mali, in the mountains of Switzerland and in Bolivia people have the right to see the World Cup," said Fifa's general secretary Sepp Blatter. "This is our responsibility, to make sure that they see it. It is our duty."

Neither the BBC nor ITV would comment yesterday. However, the German public broadcaster ARD said soccer fans would suffer. "[Fifa] is breaking off a successful 24-

year cooperative relationship that has benefited all viewers in Europe," it said, adding that the cost would have to be met through additional advertising or pay-per-view charges.

Britain's terrestrial broadcasters will be alarmed by the knock-on effect of the EBU's defeat. The last deal, negotiated in 1983, was for three tournaments (1990, 1994 and 1998). Under its terms broadcasters outside the United States paid a combined total of £180 million. That valued the rights to the 1998 tournament at \$86 million, of which the EBU pays half and BBC and ITV £1.6 million each.

Elements within Fifa have long claimed the World Cup was undersold. Its previous failure to capitalise on the vast global audience formed part of the power struggle between Fifa's veteran president Joao Havelange and Uefa's president Lennart Johansson.

Guardian Crossword No 20,696

Set by Rufus

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,696

16 Particular mixture of ale and spice (8)

20 I am in a rage it appears (6)

21 Rather small drunk (6)

23 Disagreement on a question of colour? (5)

- Across**
- 9 Rouse the fiery Celt, perhaps (9)
 - 10 Pinch, for example, makes a girl cross (5)
 - 11 Unusually smart do for film eminece (7)
 - 12 Tiredness may lead to military punishment (7)
 - 13 One shouldn't lie under it (4)
 - 14 Alan sent up in a nasty way (10)
 - 16 They're not often miscast in Westerns (7)
 - 17 Bird from the frozen North (7)
 - 19 It's not often the present combines with the past (3,3,4)
 - 22 Brings back plans for canned meat (4)
 - 24 Longed for 1996, for example, to end in style (7)
- Down**
- 25 Request treatment of colitis (7)
 - 26 Estimated trade turnover (6)
 - 27 Painters may paint it, and in a variety of places (8)
- Down**
- 1 The Met office (3,8,4)
 - 2 Can't have venison without a bottle of wine (8)
 - 3 Room for mental improvement, perhaps (5)
 - 4 Suit worn by the wealthy (8)
 - 5 An attractive woman - this much one can see (6)
 - 6 Party's final measure? (4,5)
 - 7 Variation in game puzzles people (6)
 - 8 Lady-in-waiting? (9,6)
 - 15 Hostile fire one can and does get involved in (9)
 - 17 Grace may arrive in disguise (8)

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Sport96

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